

THE

# SHADE

TIME PAST



SERVICE IN S... LU... SPON... NIN...

OR BUSY PEOPLE

THE SHADE

MENT ADDRESSES  
WORKERS

CALDECOTT

STYGIAN DARKNESS

MYSTERY MAN  
dccomics.com

DRAMATIC  
NOVELETTE

BY  
JAMES ROBINSON  
DARWYN COOKE  
J-BONE

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS

Davidson





JAMES  
ROBINSON

DARWYN  
COOKE

J.  
BONE

THE

# SHADE



a  
tale  
of  
TIMES PAST

RATED **T** + TEEN PLUS

MAR 2012

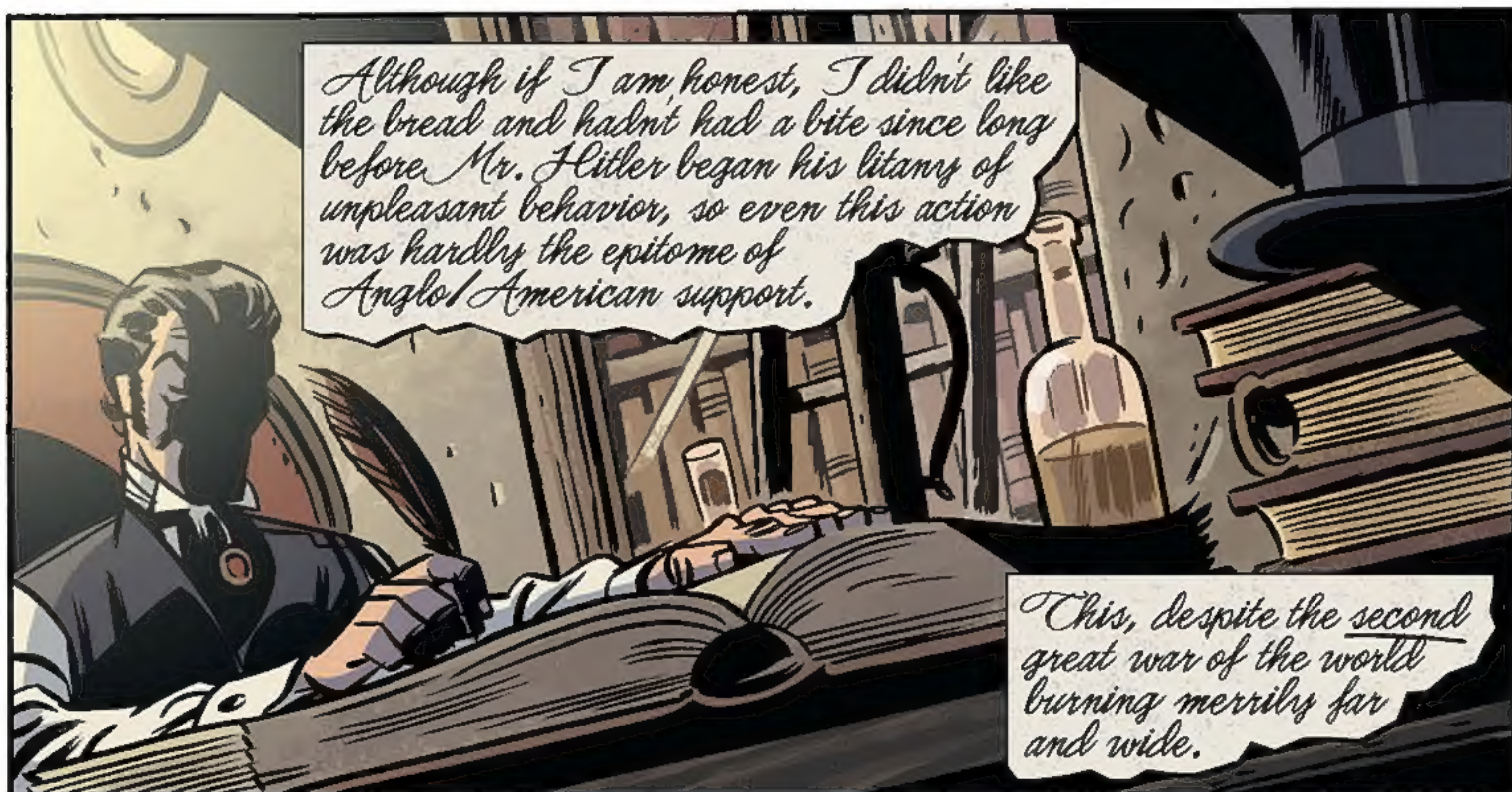
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*It was April 14, 1944. And I confess, until that day, my only anti-German act had been abstaining from Pumpernickel.*

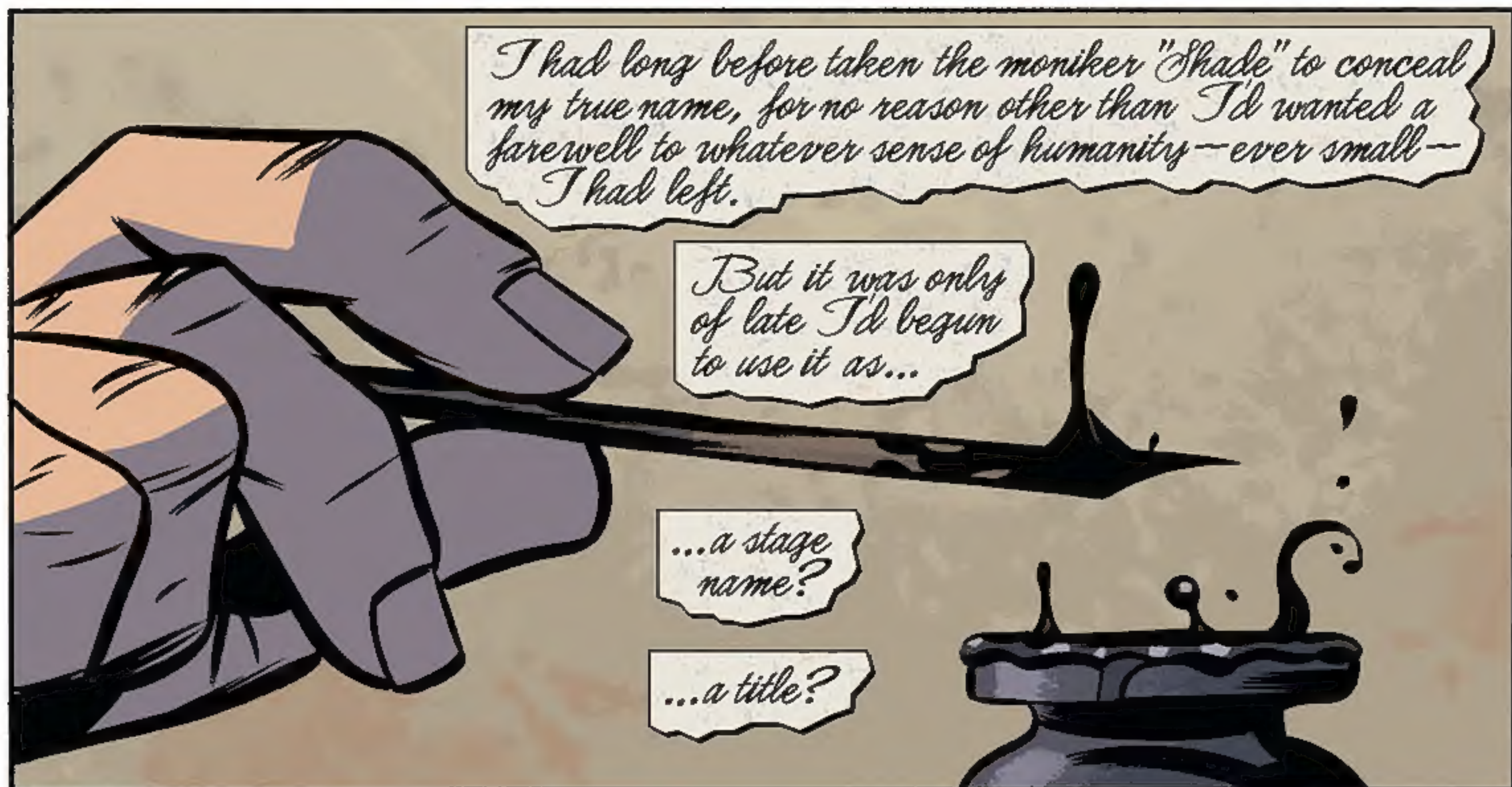






Although if I am honest, I didn't like the bread and hadn't had a bite since long before Mr. Hitler began his litany of unpleasant behavior, so even this action was hardly the epitome of Anglo-American support.

This, despite the second great war of the world burning merrily far and wide.



I had long before taken the moniker "Shade" to conceal my true name, for no reason other than I'd wanted a farewell to whatever sense of humanity--ever small--I had left.

But it was only of late I'd begun to use it as...

...a stage name?

...a title?



Now, more and more I was "The Shade," and my crimes (in the past I think more a product of amorality than design) were becoming more calculated and steadfast.

In fact, it was in the orchestrating of one such enterprise that by happenstance I found myself in the events I now relate.

I suppose it began (as best I can recall) by my stepping out into the streets of Opal City.



*Ahh, Opal City in '44.  
Was there ever such an  
exciting and wonderful  
place?*

*But I  
digress.*

# **TIMES PAST: 1944**

## **Family Ties Part III**

**JAMES ROBINSON**  
writer

**DARWYN COOKE**  
penciller

**J. BONE** inker

**DAVE STEWART**  
colorist

**TODD KLEIN**  
letterer

**TONY HARRIS**  
cover artist

**DARWYN  
COOKE**  
variant  
cover artist

**WIL MOSS**  
editor









Darnell Caldecott was a name that interested me. For reasons that...well...reasons I chose to keep private at the time.

He was a naturalized American, but English by birth.

A wealthy industrialist who had thrown his money and his factories—in fact, pretty much his whole life—into the war effort.

He spoke of his love for both his new country and his old one.

He spoke of the urgent need to win this war and as quickly as possible for the sake of Allied lives abroad in the battle theatres of the world.

**LIFE**

He spoke.

To the papers, to the people, to his fellow men of industry.

He was an inspiration.

And as I learned from the informative Mr. Dayne...

...that made him a target.

**DARNELL CALDECOTT**  
Man of Two Worlds

APRIL 10, 1944 10 CENTS

An assassination, soon. Fifth Columnists. Agents of the Axis. Soon.

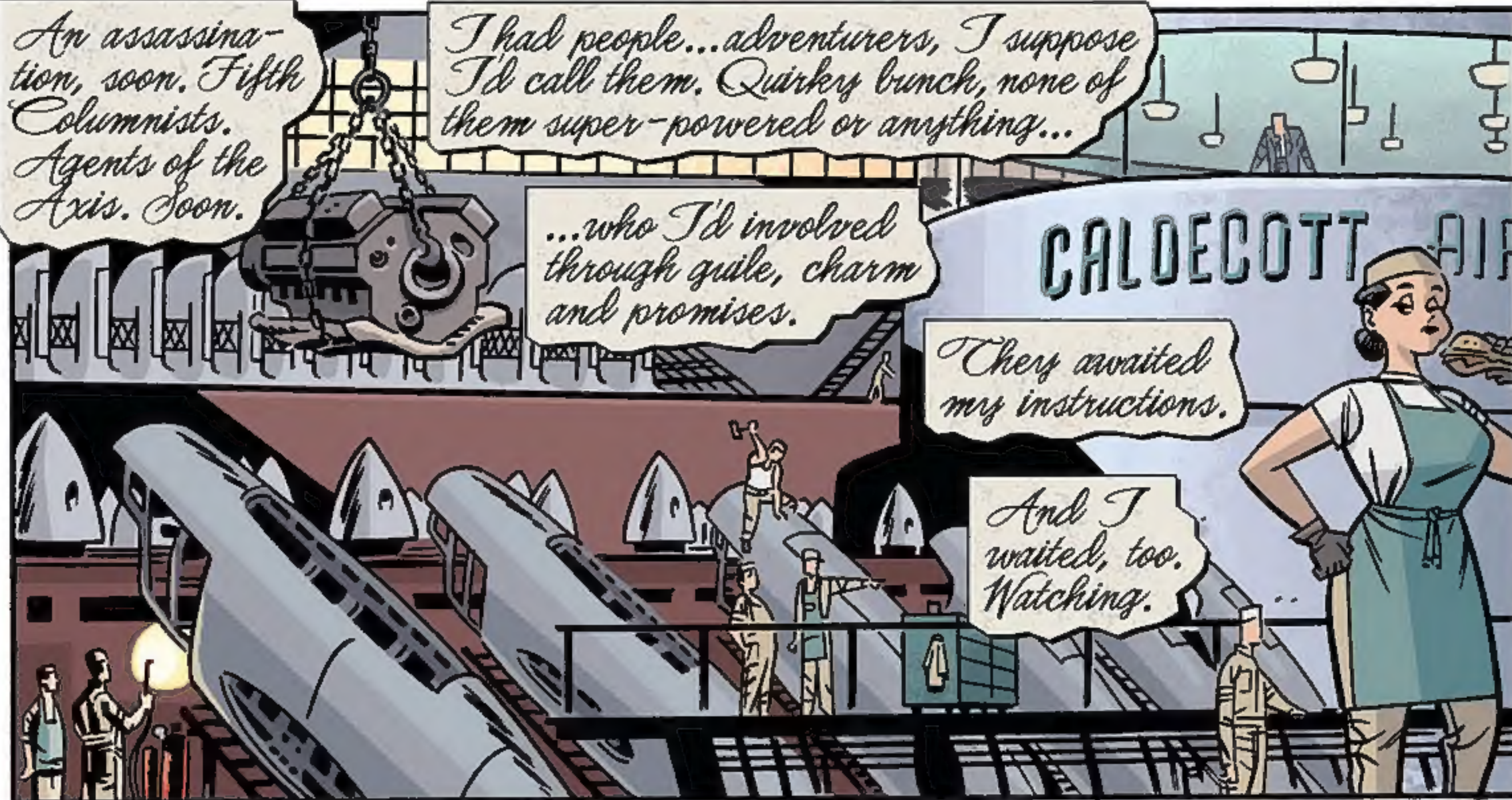
I had people...adventurers, I suppose I'd call them. Quirky bunch, none of them super-powered or anything...

...who I'd involved through guile, charm and promises.

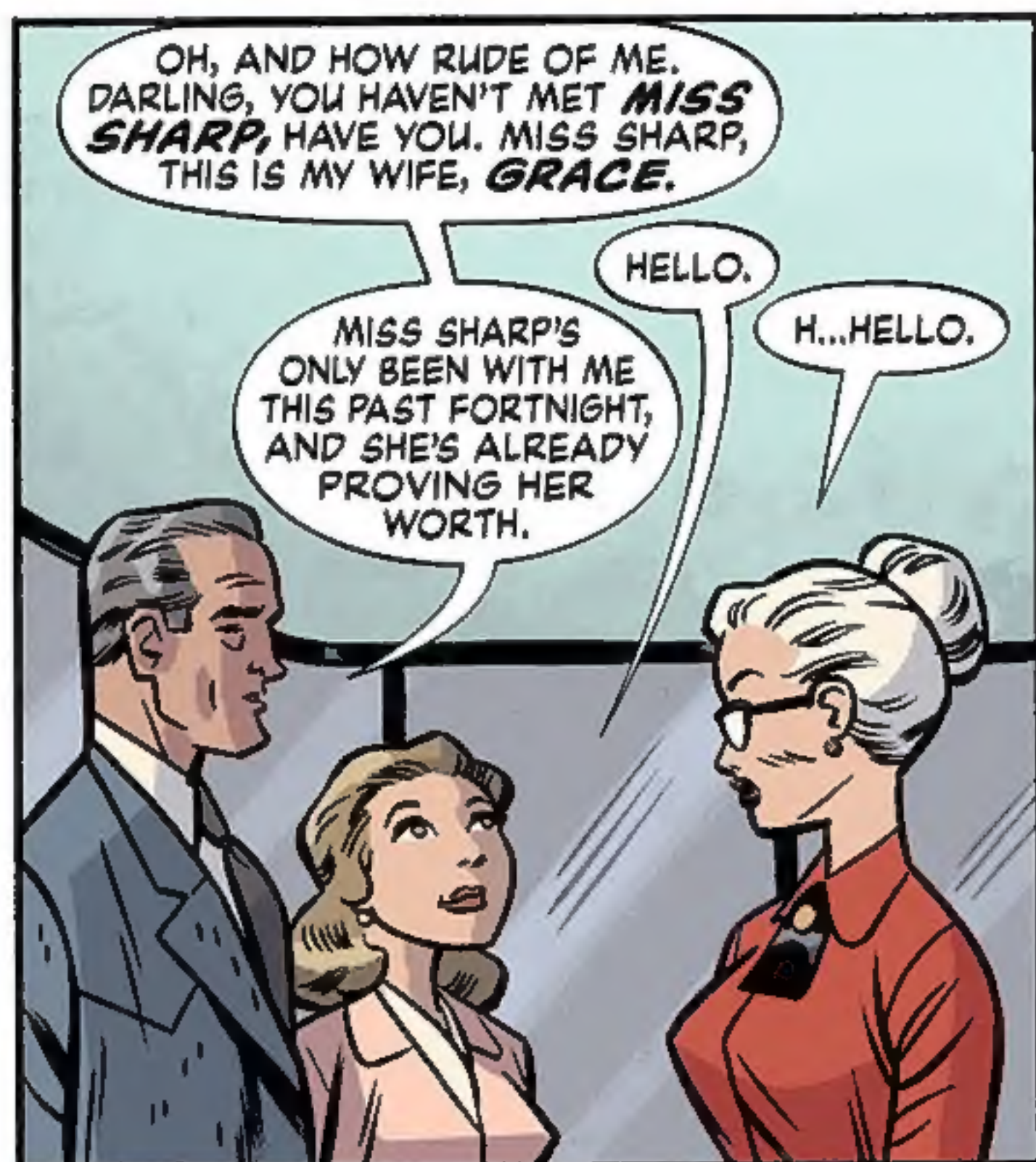
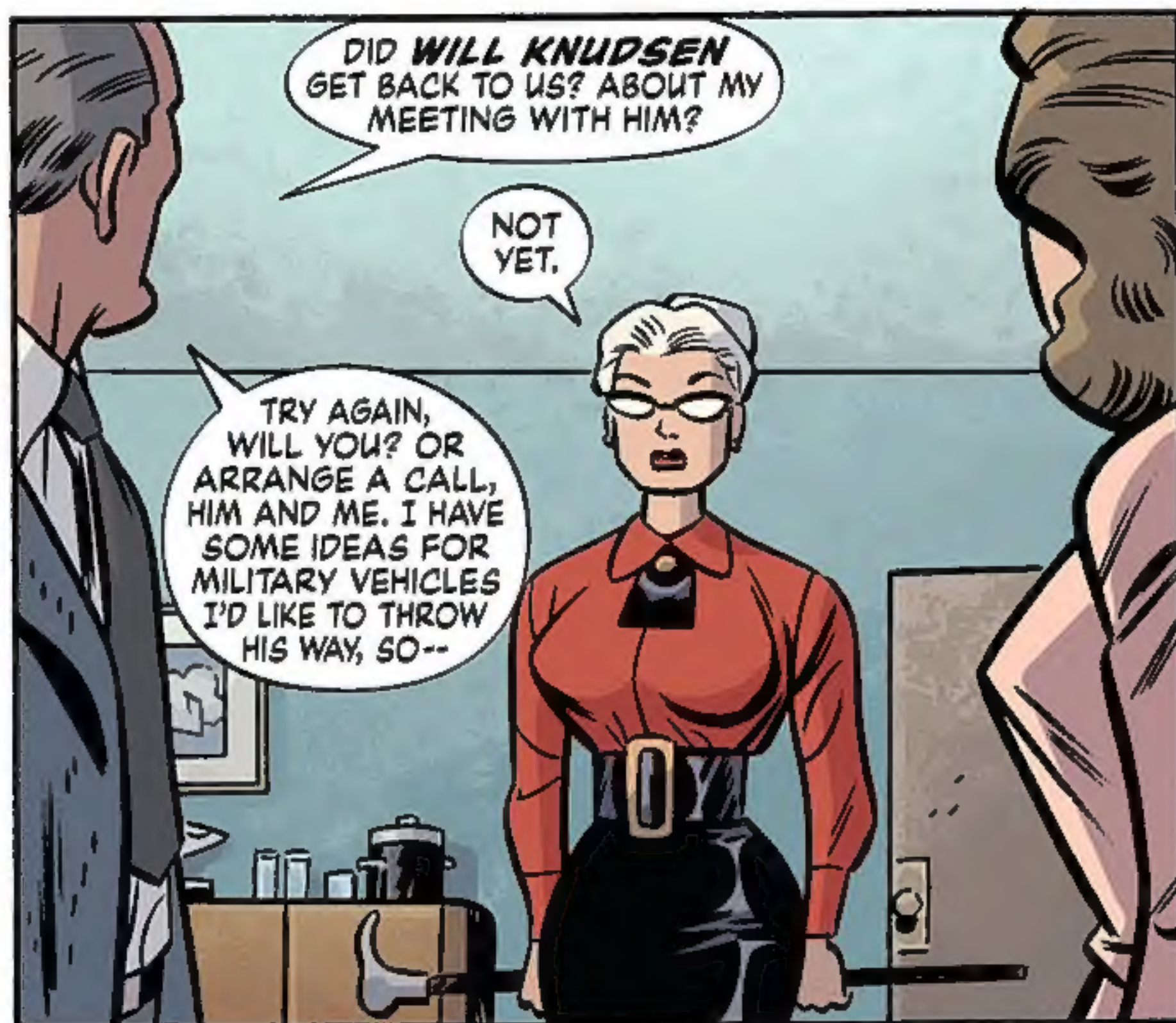
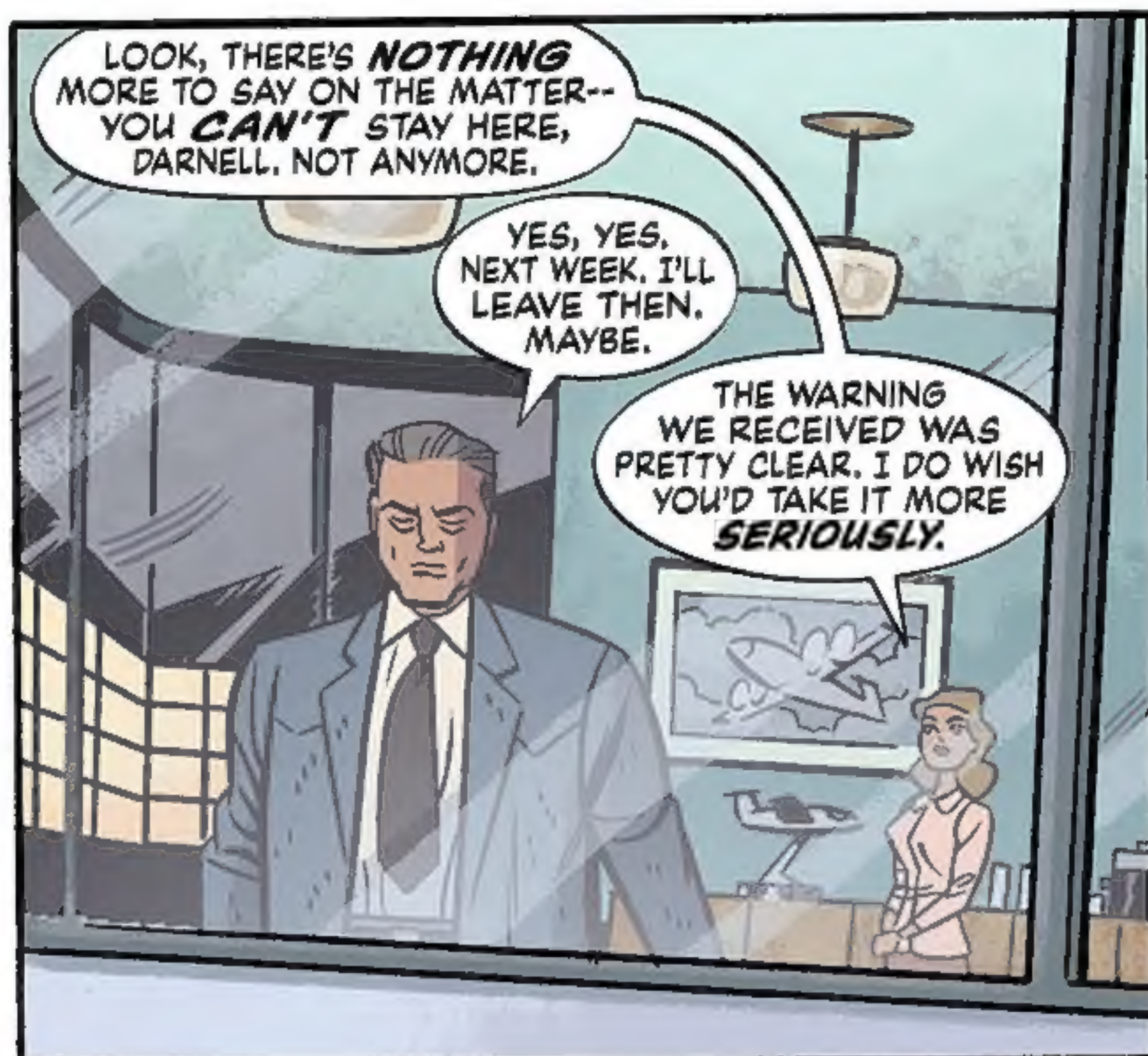
They awaited my instructions.

And I waited, too. Watching.

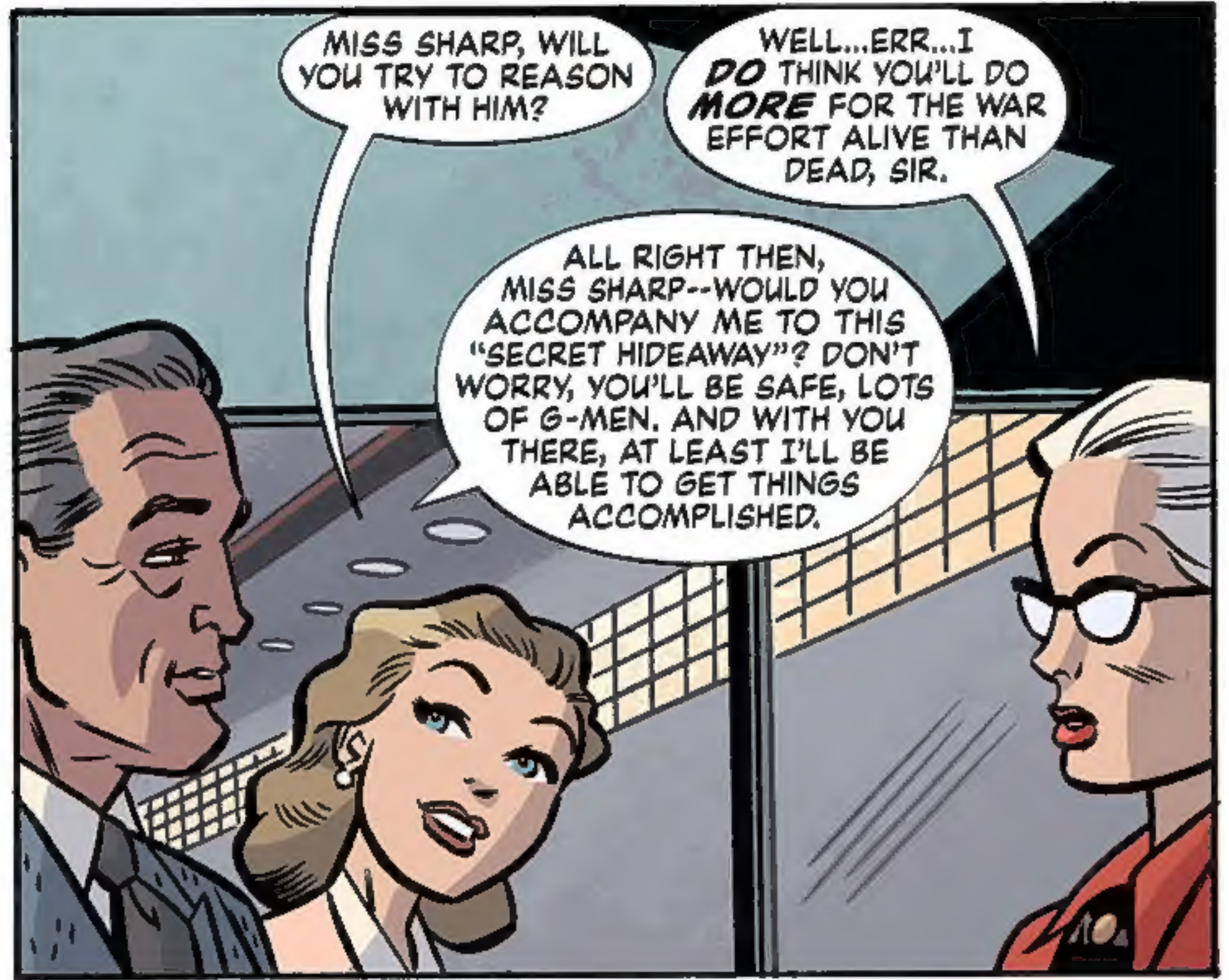
**CALDECOTT AIR**







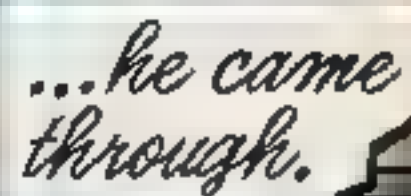
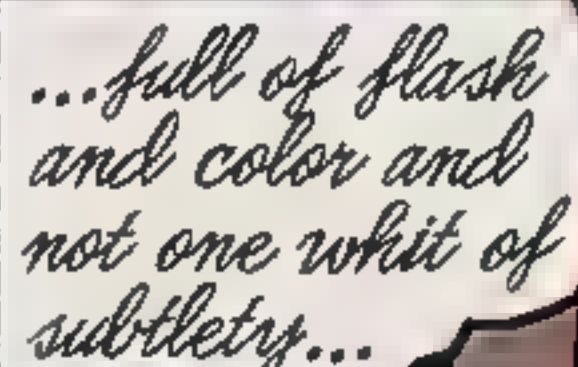
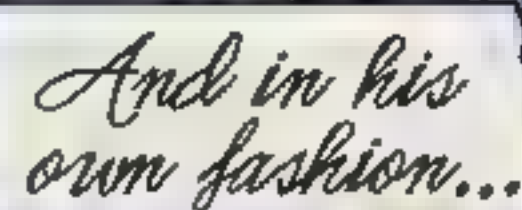








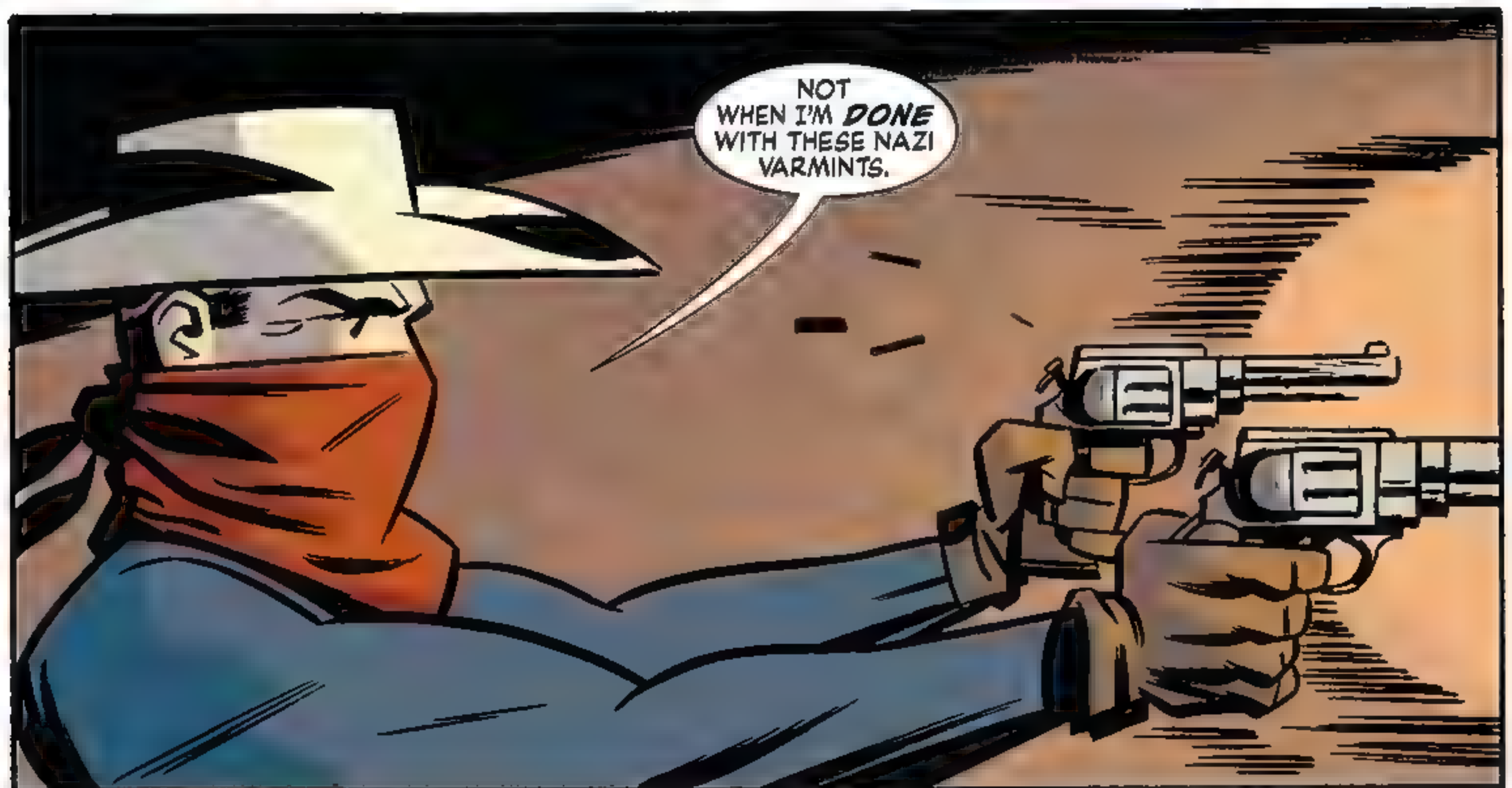
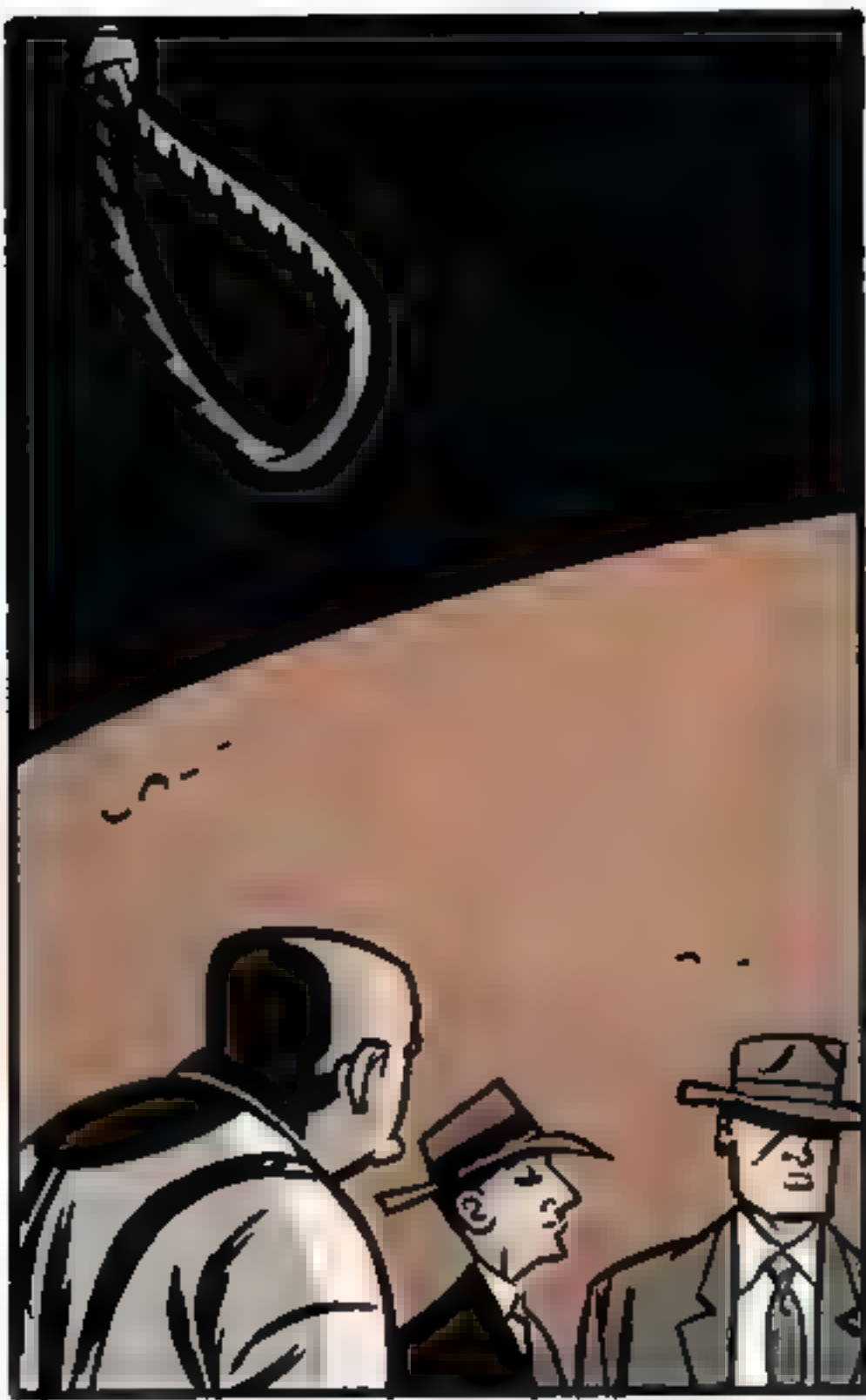












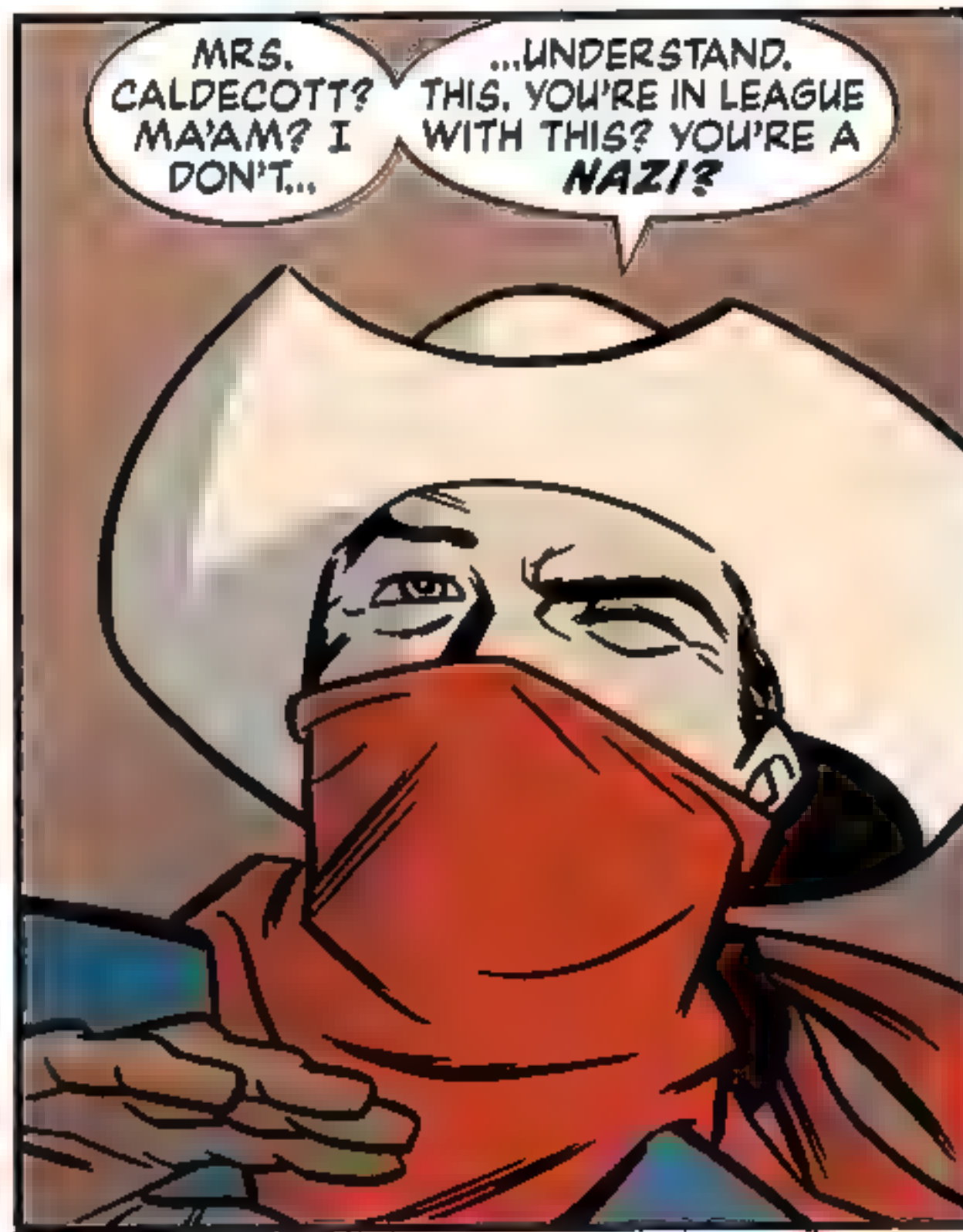




THERE.  
SAFE.

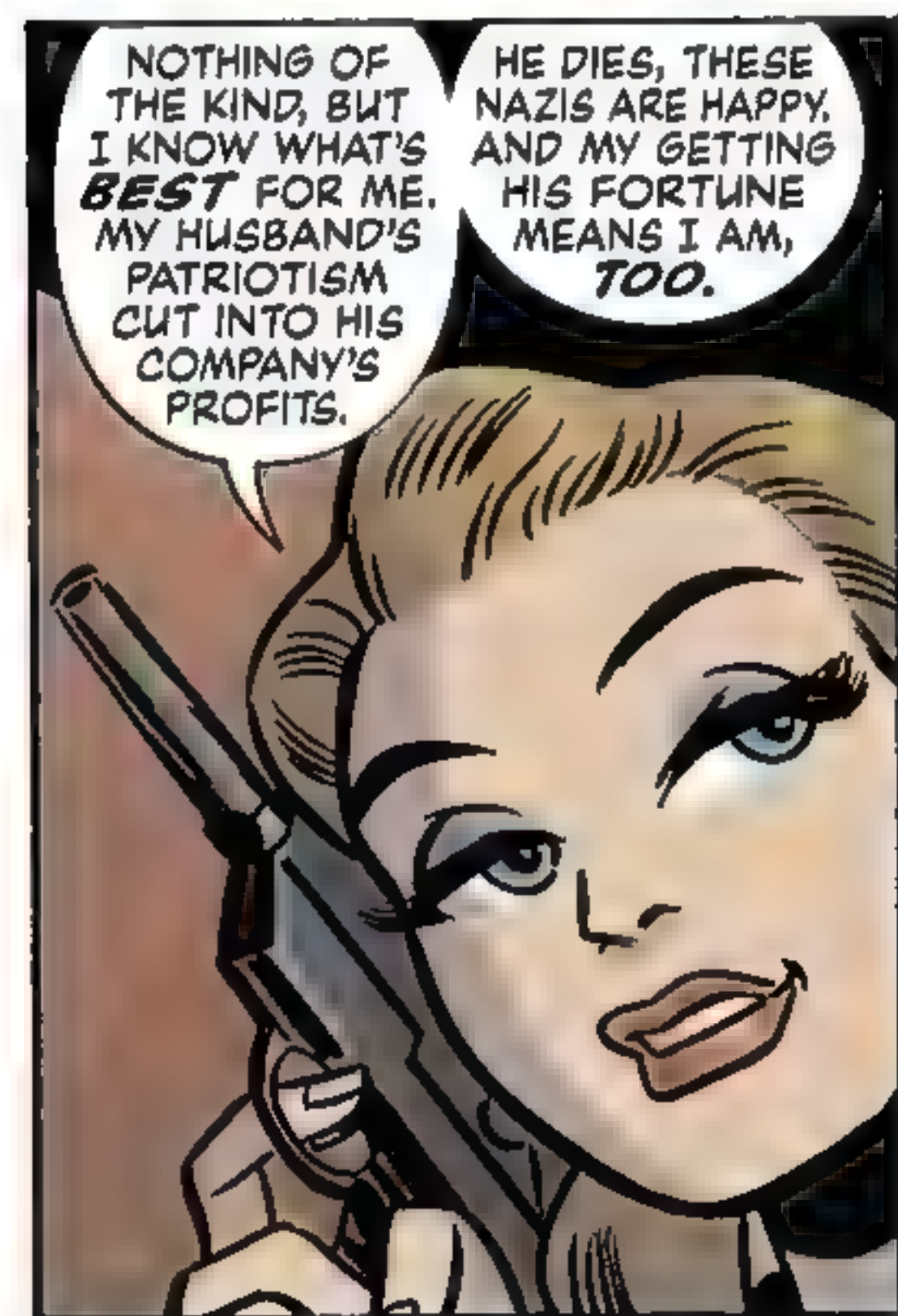


I **ALWAYS**  
HAVE BEEN.



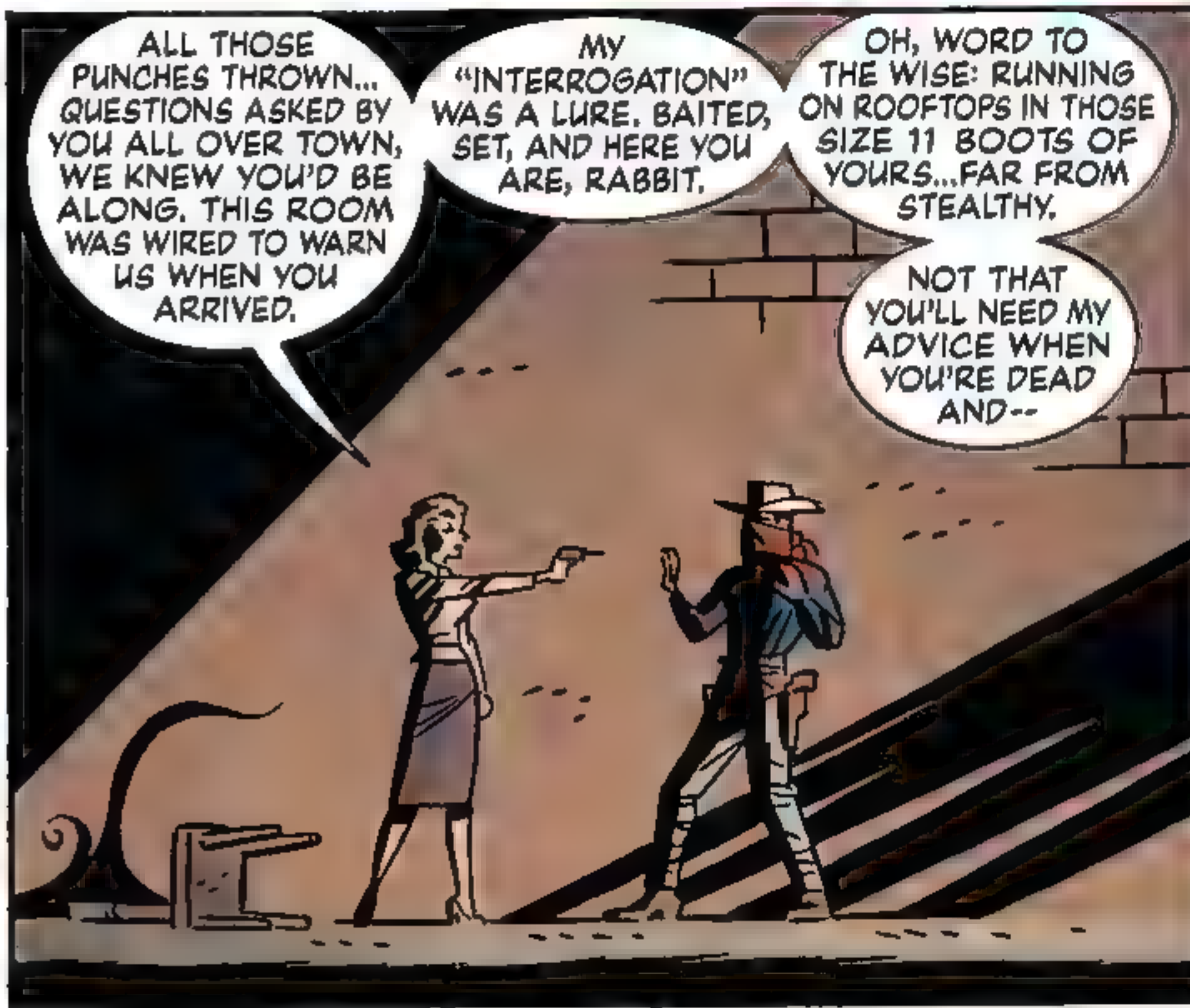
MRS.  
CALDECOTT?  
MA'AM? I  
DON'T...

...UNDERSTAND.  
THIS. YOU'RE IN LEAGUE  
WITH THIS? YOU'RE A  
**NAZI?**



NOTHING OF  
THE KIND, BUT  
I KNOW WHAT'S  
**BEST** FOR ME.  
MY HUSBAND'S  
PATRIOTISM  
CUT INTO HIS  
COMPANY'S  
PROFITS.

HE DIES, THESE  
NAZIS ARE HAPPY.  
AND MY GETTING  
HIS FORTUNE  
MEANS I AM,  
**TOO.**



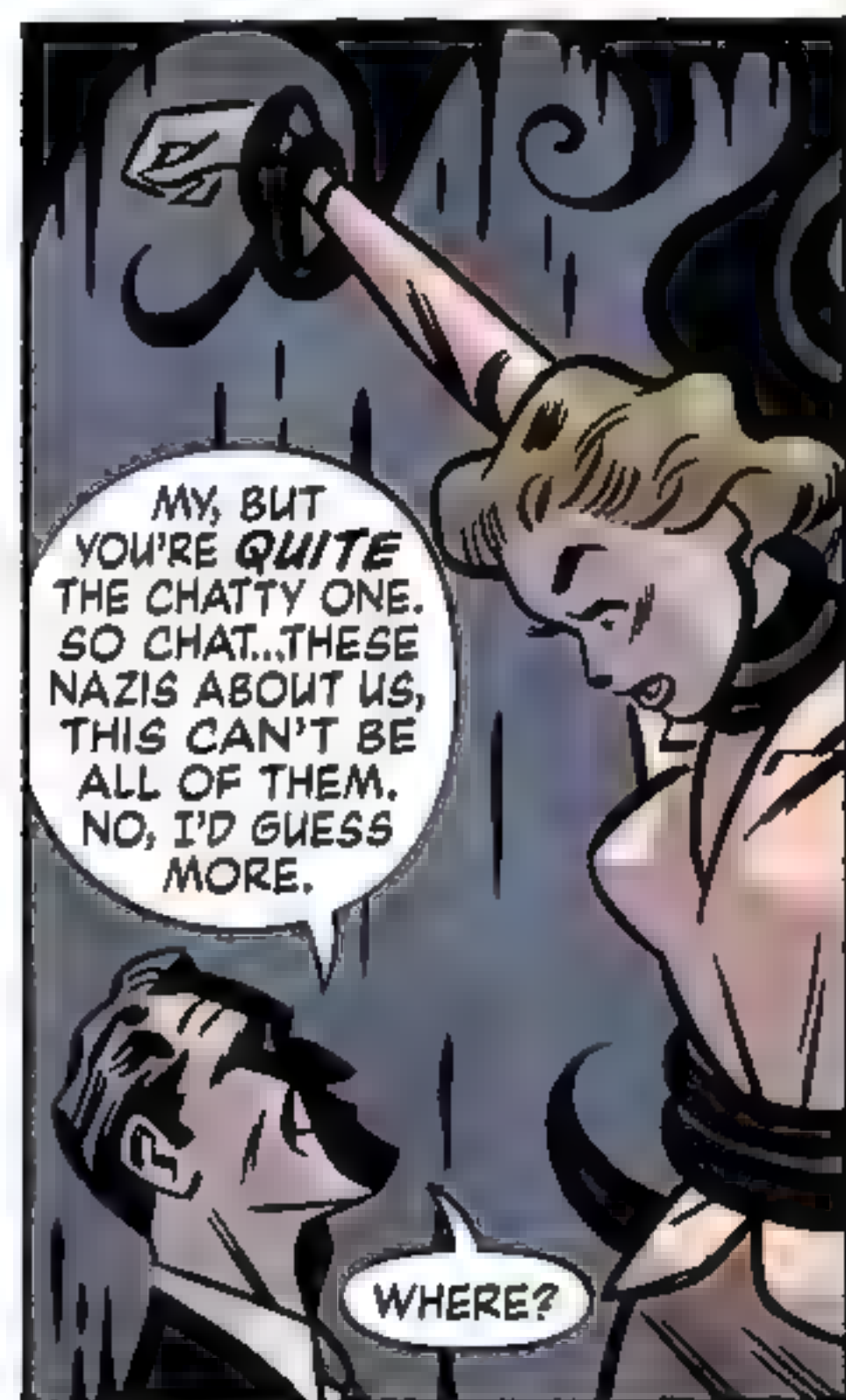
ALL THOSE  
PUNCHES THROWN...  
QUESTIONS ASKED BY  
YOU ALL OVER TOWN,  
WE KNEW YOU'D BE  
ALONG. THIS ROOM  
WAS WIRED TO WARN  
US WHEN YOU  
ARRIVED.

MY  
"INTERROGATION"  
WAS A LURE. BAITED,  
SET, AND HERE YOU  
ARE, RABBIT.

OH, WORD TO  
THE WISE: RUNNING  
ON ROOFTOPS IN THOSE  
SIZE 11 BOOTS OF  
YOURS...FAR FROM  
STEALTHY.

NOT THAT  
YOU'LL NEED MY  
ADVICE WHEN  
YOU'RE DEAD  
AND--





MY, BUT YOU'RE **QUITE** THE CHATTY ONE. SO CHAT...THESE NAZIS ABOUT US, THIS CAN'T BE ALL OF THEM. NO, I'D GUESS MORE.

WHERE?

YOU KNOW YOUR HUSBAND'S LOCATION. DO **THEY** KNOW? HAVE YOU TOLD THEM?

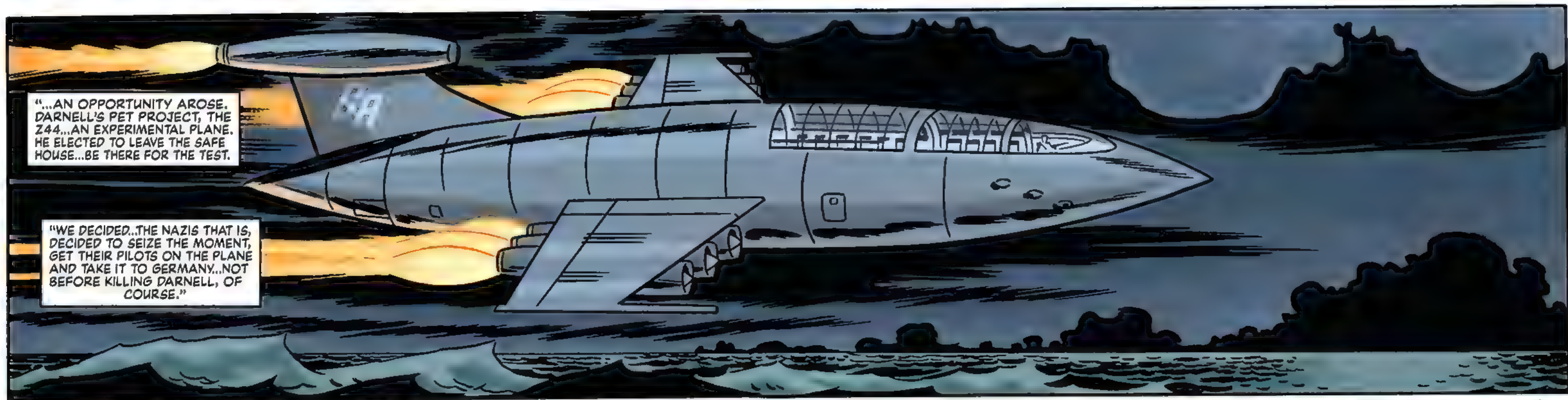
YOU CLAIM TO KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU? HMM. I'D SAY AT THIS MOMENT YOU SPEAKING UP IS SLIGHTLY MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THAN DYING.



WHICH YOU ARE OH SO **CLOSE** TO DOING.

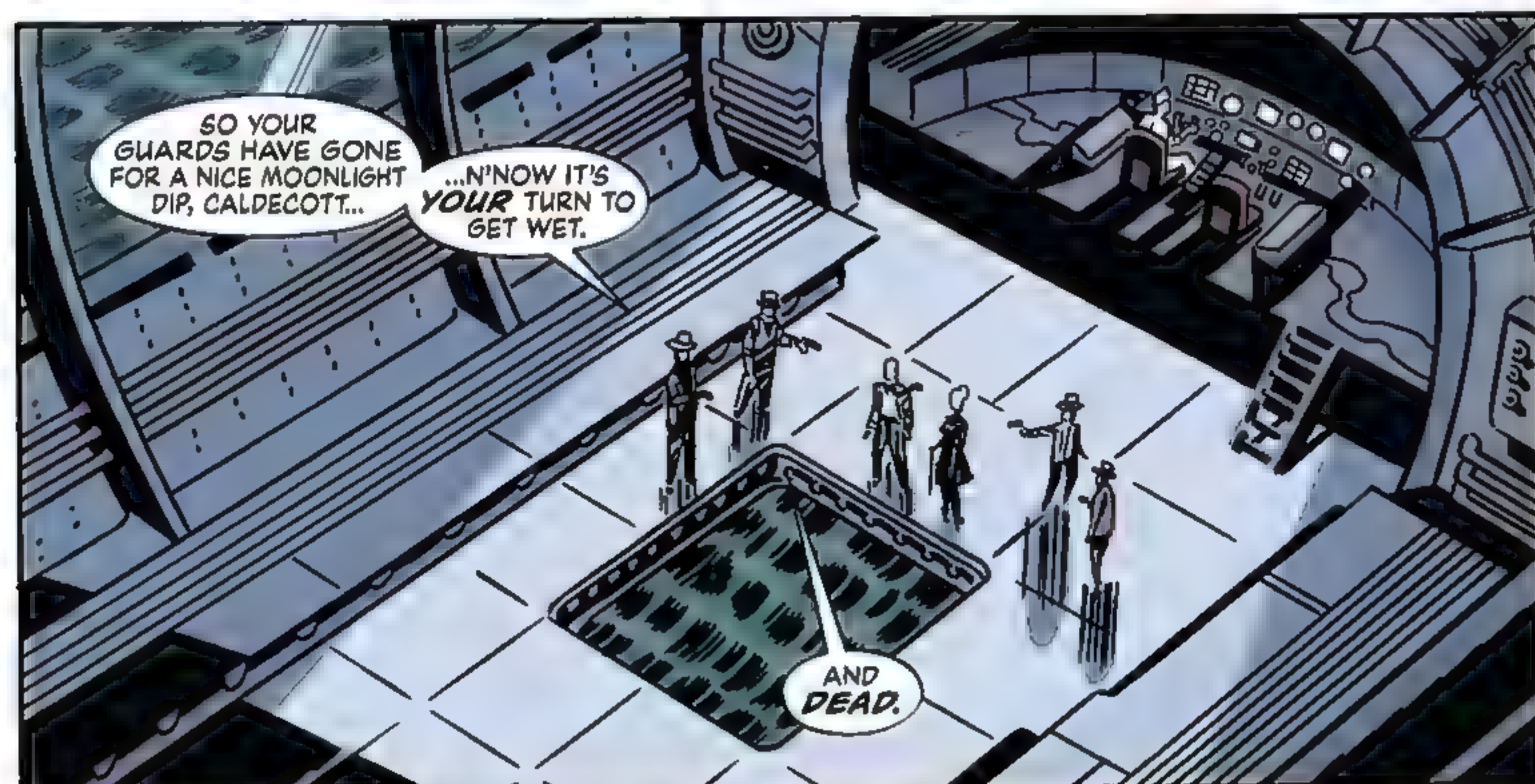
NO, **NO...** I'LL TELL YOU... I...A...





"...AN OPPORTUNITY AROSE. DARNELL'S PET PROJECT, THE Z44...AN EXPERIMENTAL PLANE. HE ELECTED TO LEAVE THE SAFE HOUSE...BE THERE FOR THE TEST.

"WE DECIDED...THE NAZIS THAT IS, DECIDED TO SEIZE THE MOMENT, GET THEIR PILOTS ON THE PLANE AND TAKE IT TO GERMANY...NOT BEFORE KILLING DARNELL, OF COURSE."



SO YOUR GUARDS HAVE GONE FOR A NICE MOONLIGHT DIP, CALDECOTT...

...N'NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO GET WET.

AND DEAD.



...YOUR OBITUARY.

STAY BACK, MISS SHARP! GET BEHIND ME! PERHAPS THEY'LL SPARE YOU IF--



GOD, I'M SO SICK OF SEEING YOUR FACE ON MAGAZINES AND NEWSREELS. YEAH, I'LL ENJOY THIS...

...THAT I'M THE GUY WHO MADE THE NEXT THING THAT'S WRITTEN ABOUT YOU...



NO, MR. CALDECOTT! YOU GET BEHIND ME!





*I present to you...  
Madam Fatal.*

*Richard Stanton,  
retired actor, using  
the guise of a woman  
to fight crime.*



*Yes, indeed,  
where do I  
begin with  
this one, too?*

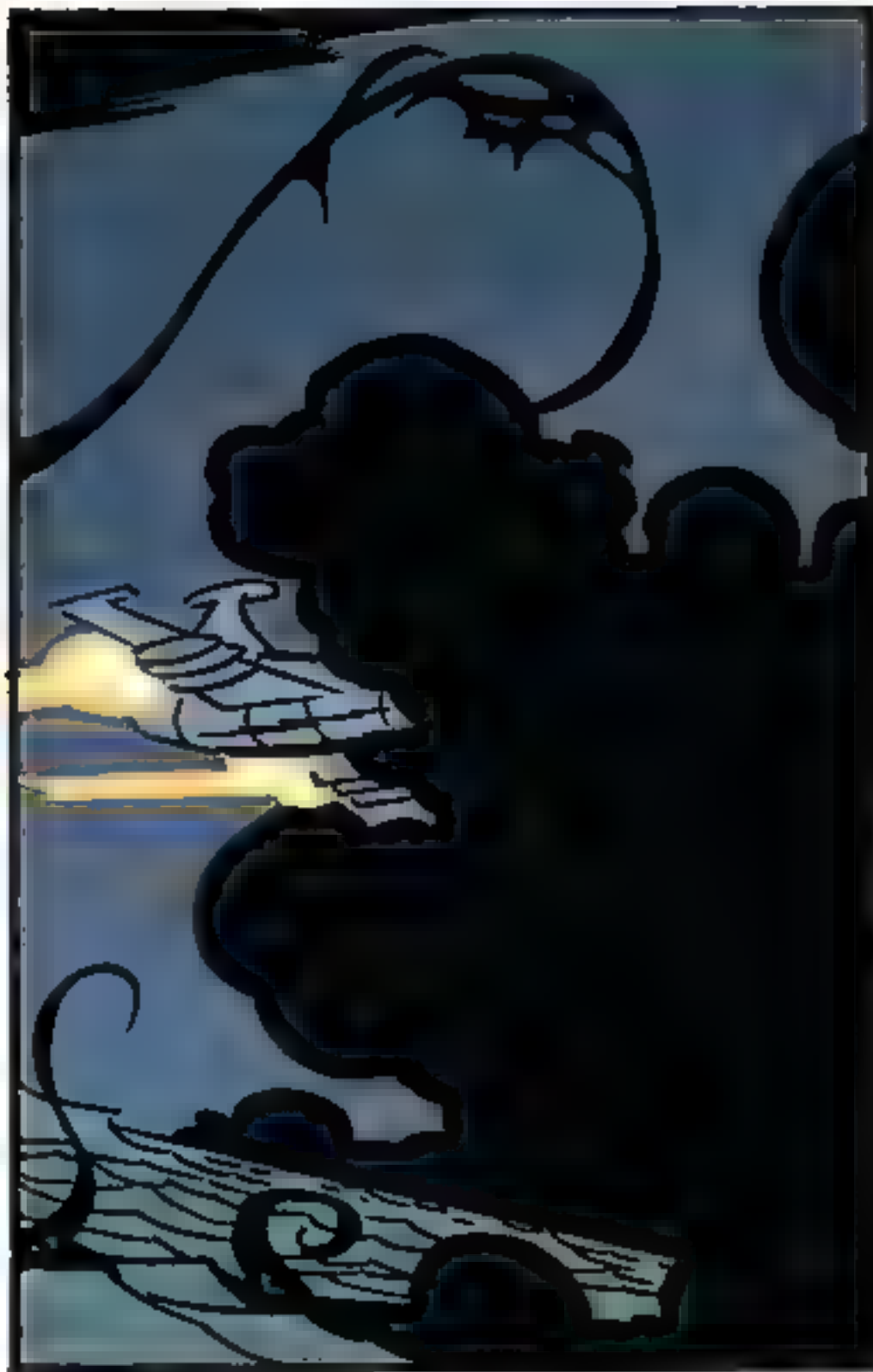
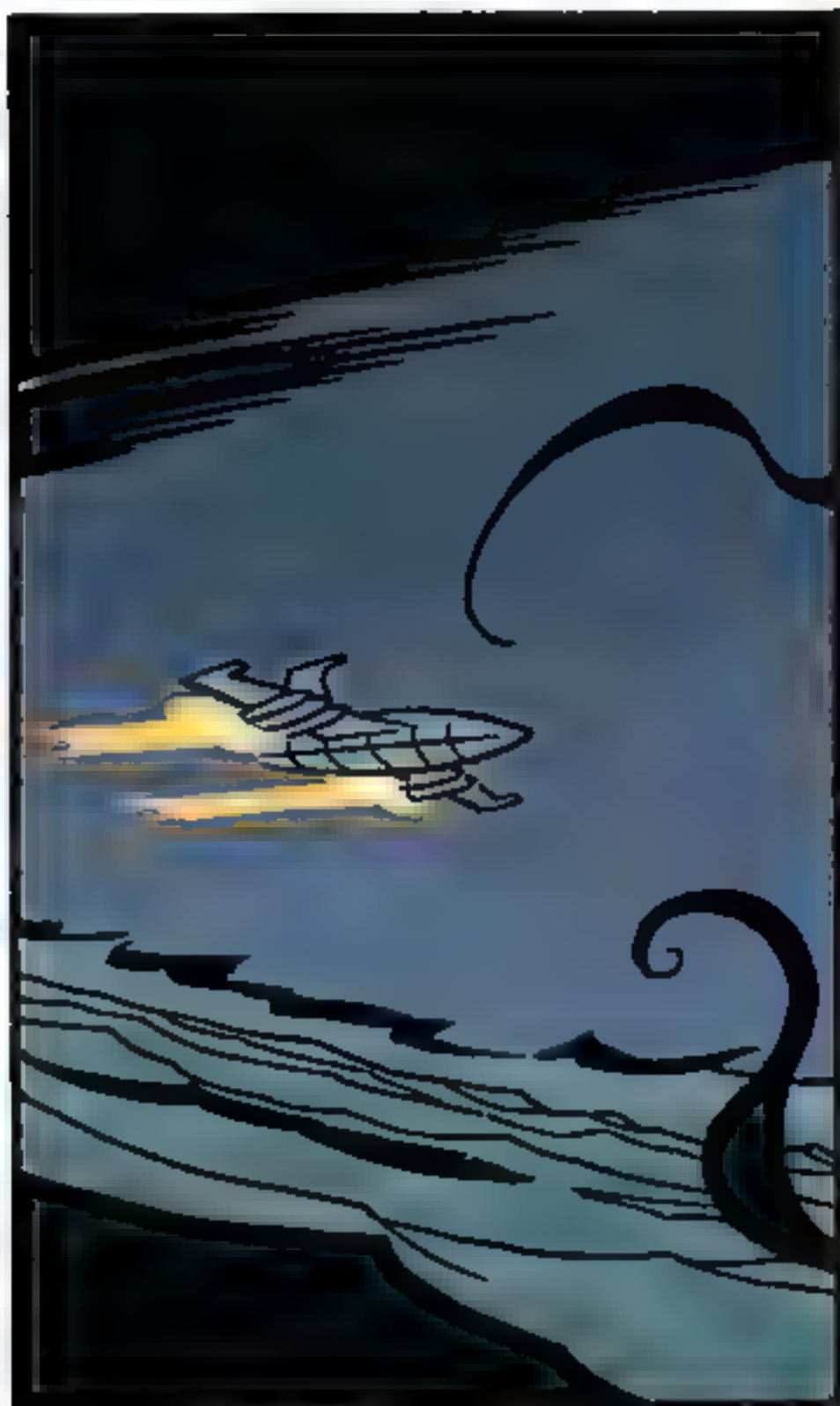
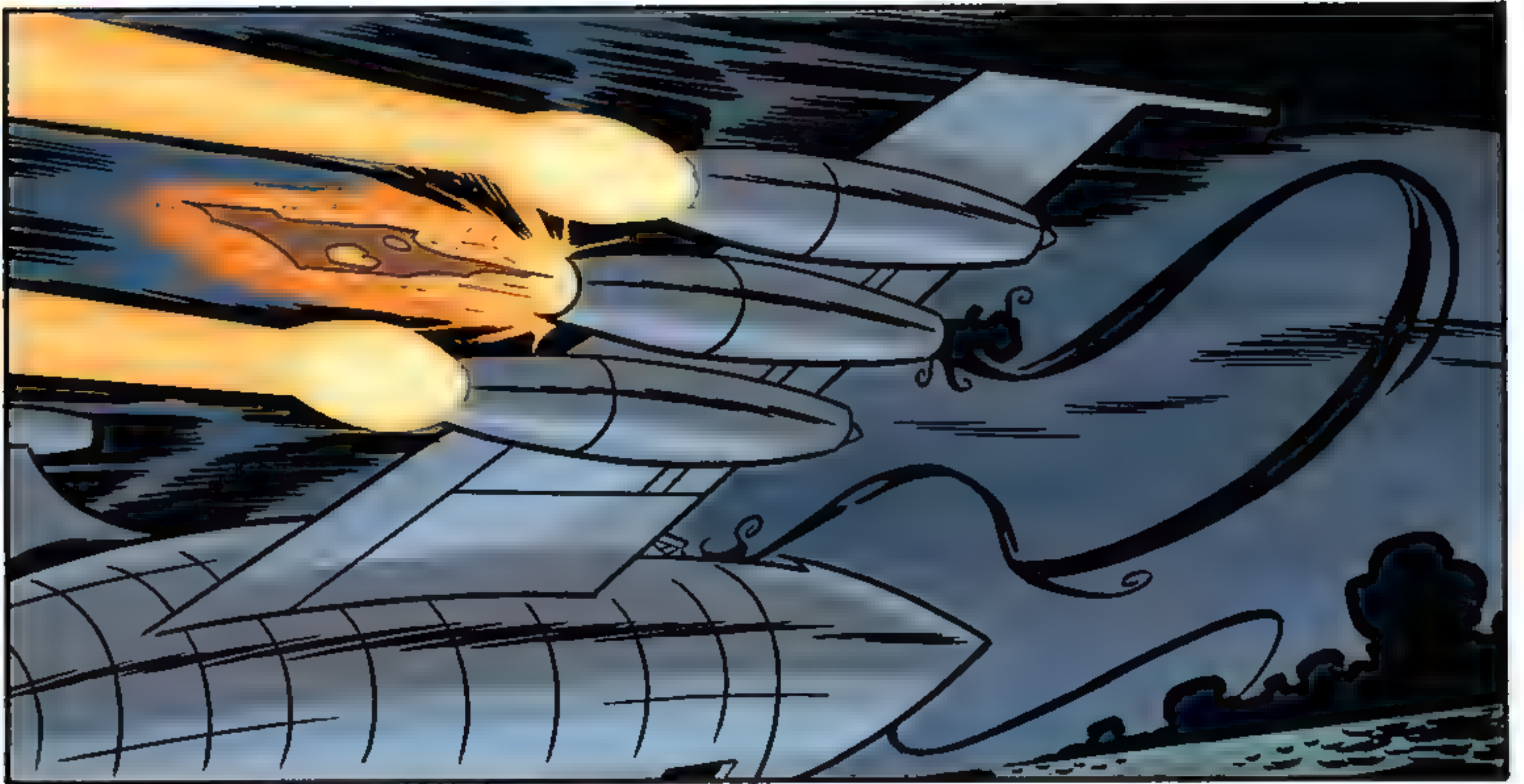
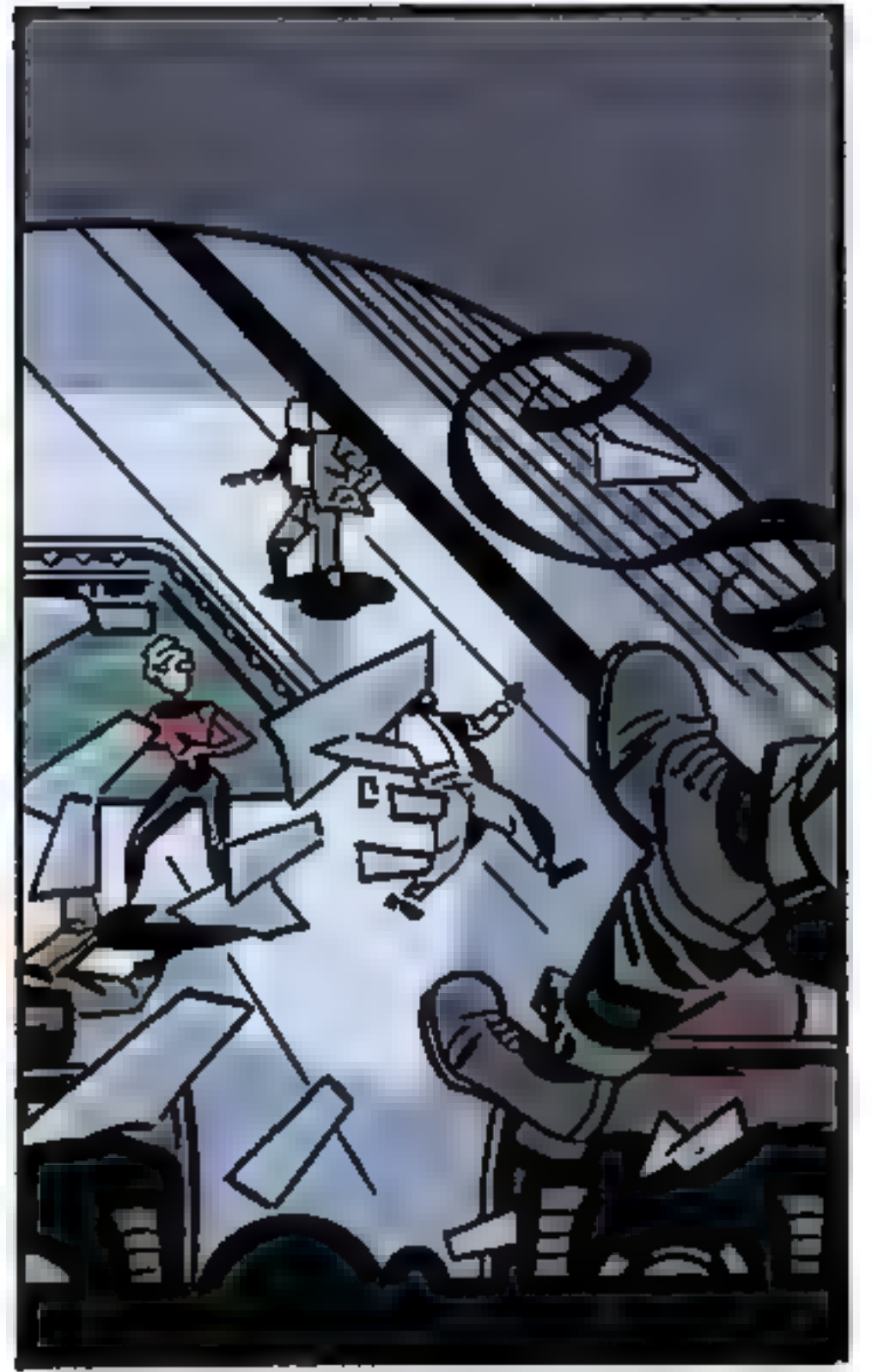
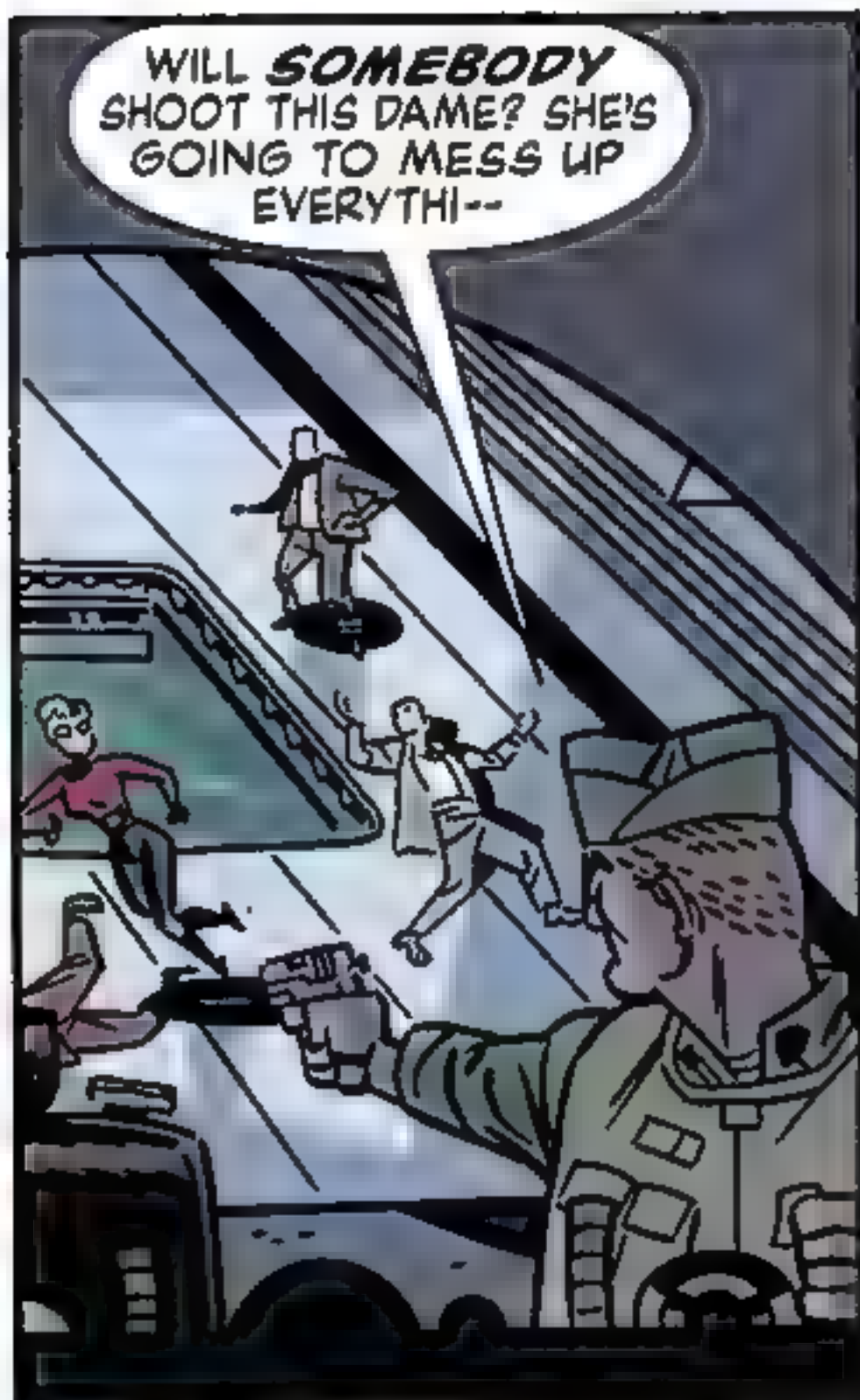
*Of course, in my varied  
(and some might say tawdry)  
travels, I've encountered  
that breed of men who  
enjoy wearing women's  
clothing.*



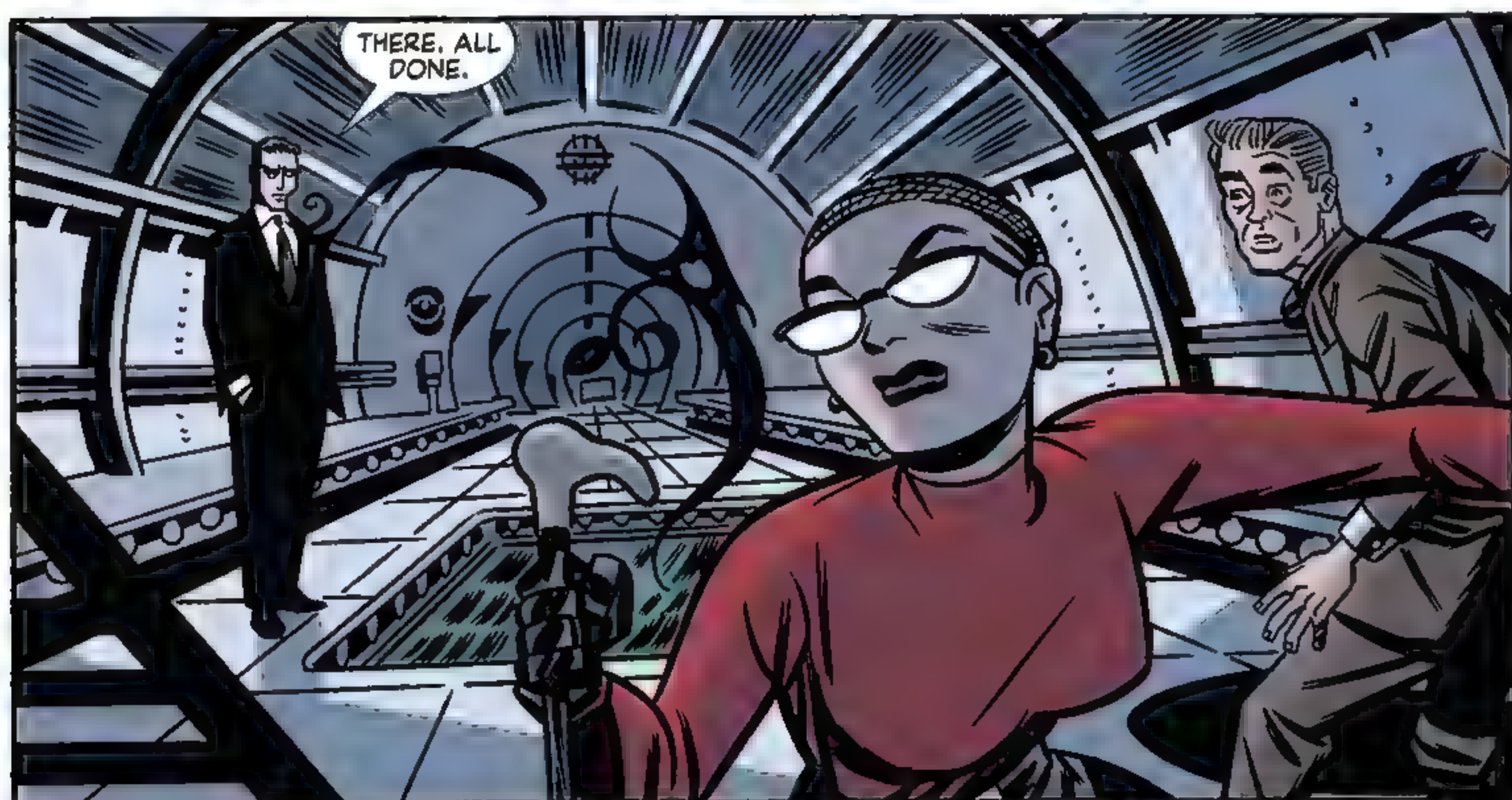
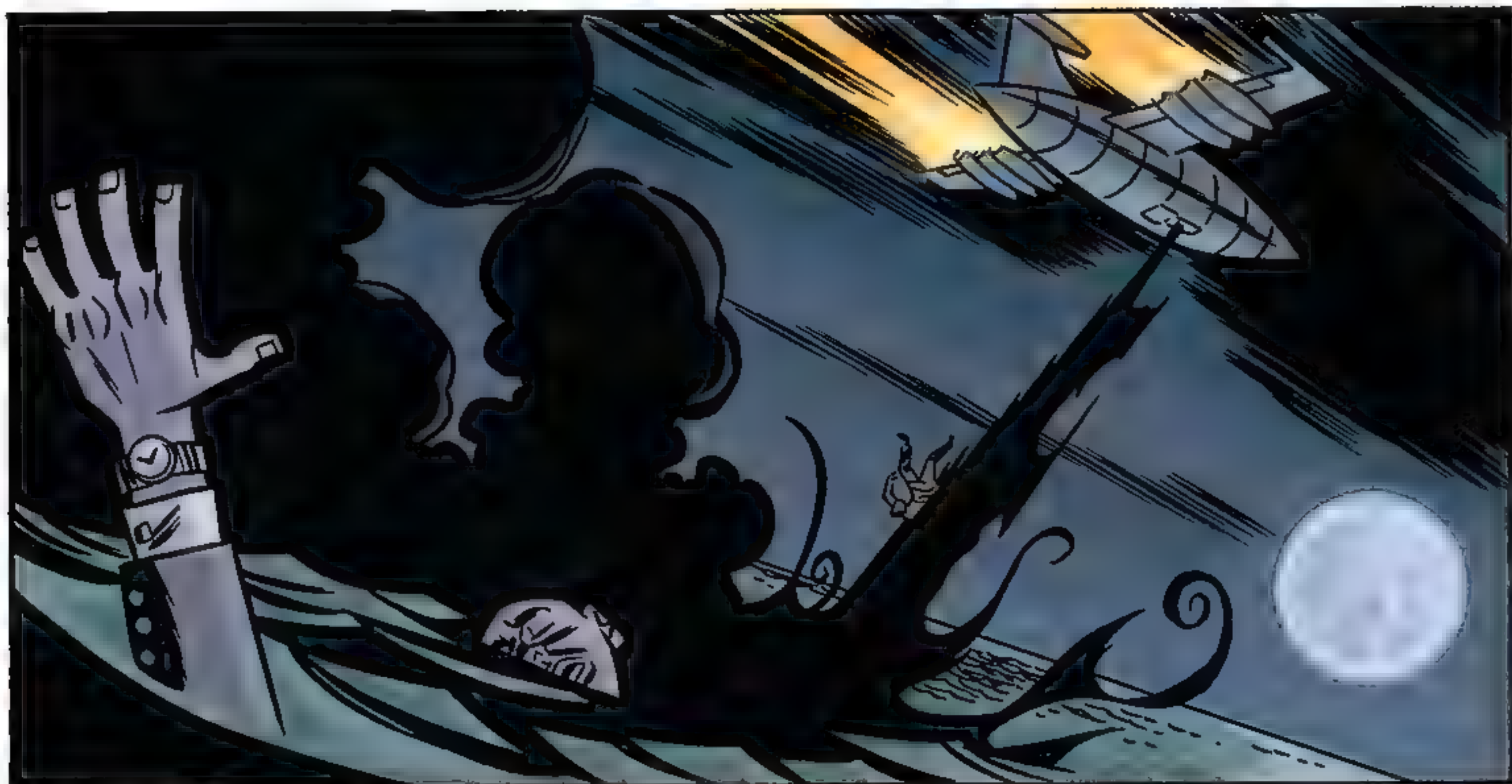
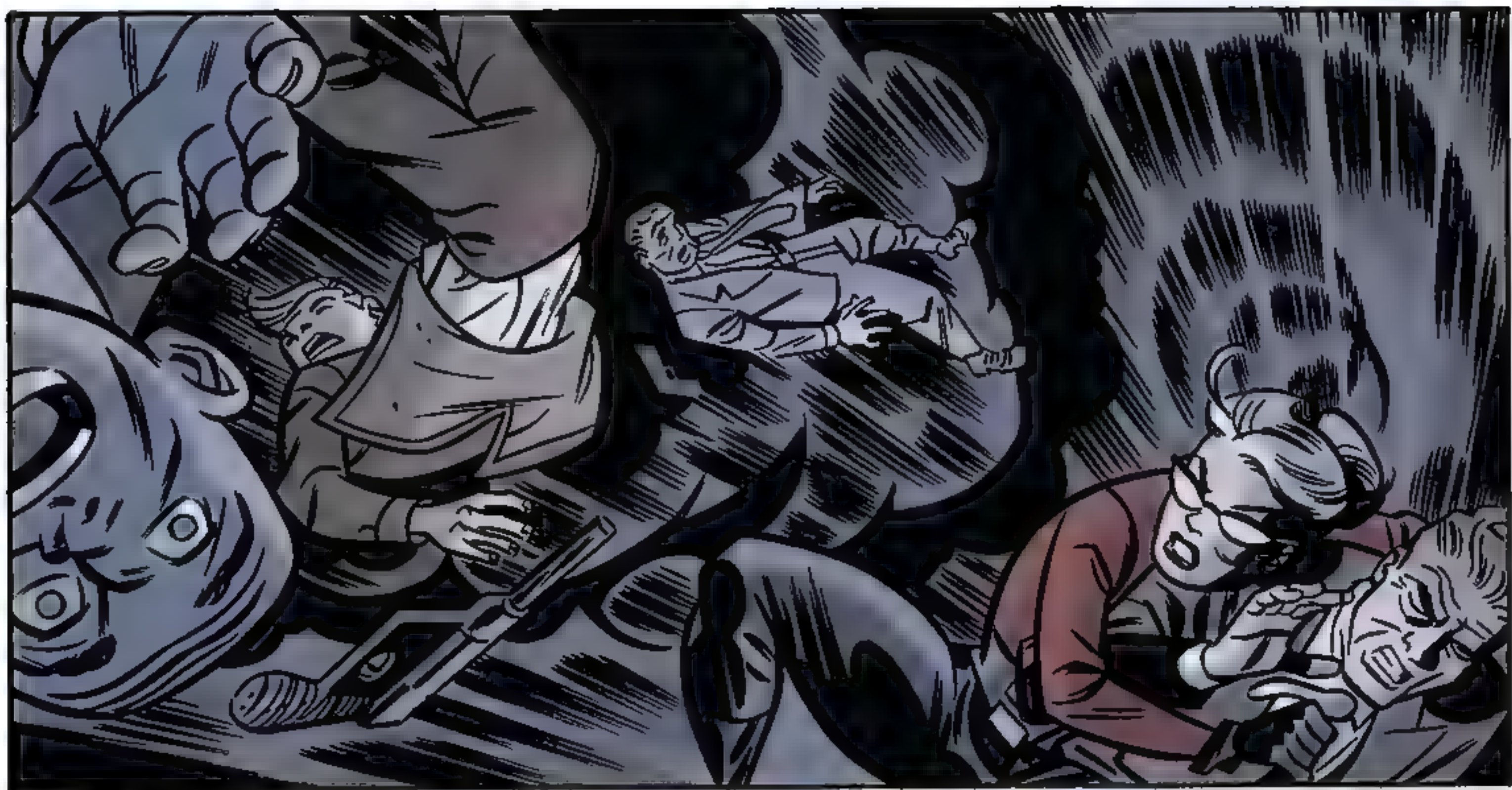
*But the activities  
of such fellows  
normally involve  
cocktails and  
torch songs--*

*--not punching  
spies and  
yegg men.*













I DON'T...  
UNDERSTAND,  
MISS SHARP?  
YOU'RE--?



NOT WHAT I APPEARED  
TO BE. I'M SORRY FOR THE  
SUBTERFUGE.

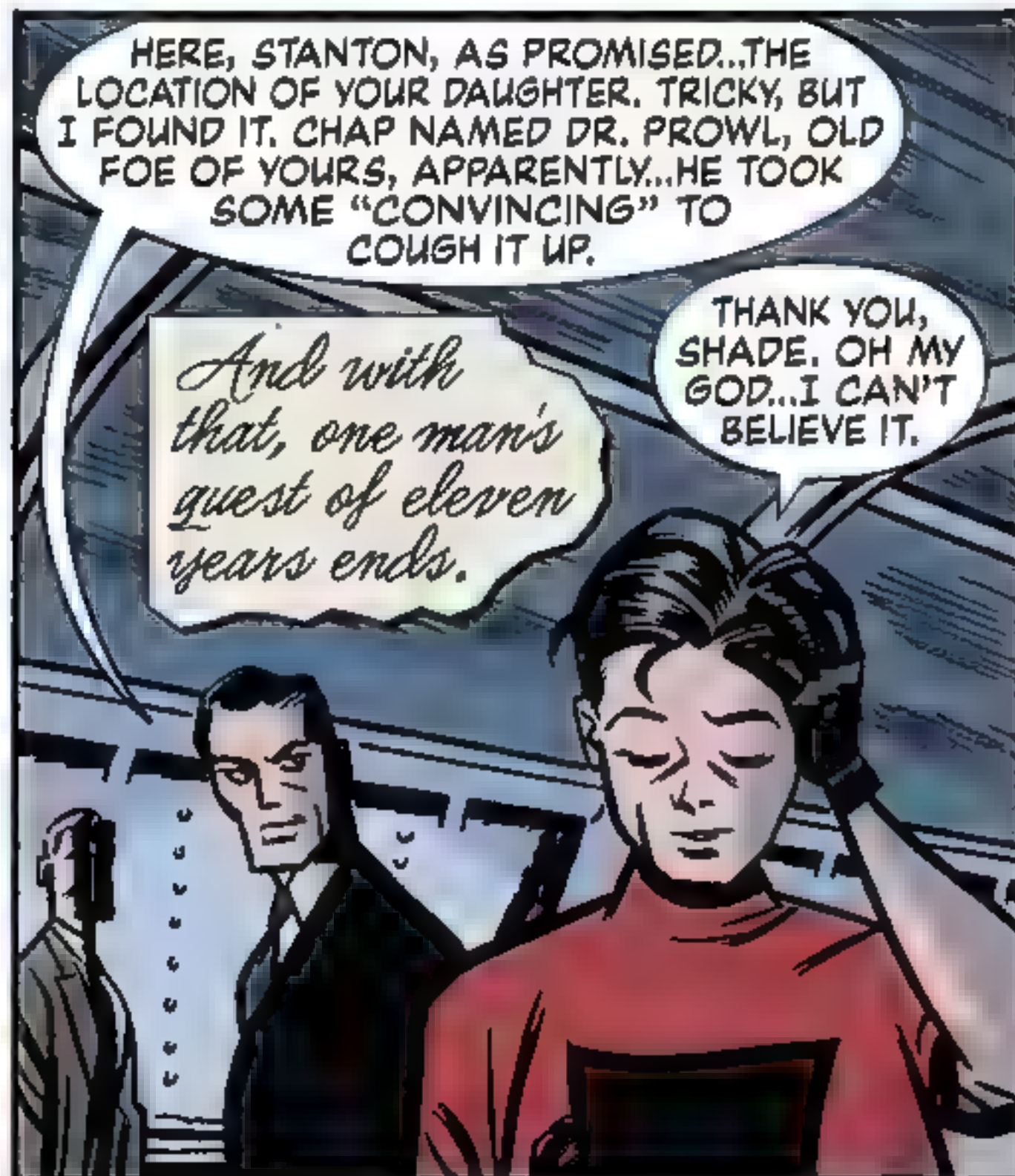
I...I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT TO  
SAY.



THEN WHY DON'T I  
SPEAK FOR THE MOMENT,  
DARNELL. THERE'S MORE YOU  
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT  
THIS...YOUR WIFE--

GRACE?  
WHAT ABOUT  
HER?

IN A  
MOMENT.  
FIRST...



HERE, STANTON, AS PROMISED...THE  
LOCATION OF YOUR DAUGHTER. TRICKY, BUT  
I FOUND IT. CHAP NAMED DR. PROWL, OLD  
FOE OF YOURS, APPARENTLY...HE TOOK  
SOME "CONVINCING" TO  
COUGH IT UP.

*And with  
that, one man's  
quest of eleven  
years ends.*

THANK YOU,  
SHADE. OH MY  
GOD...I CAN'T  
BELIEVE IT.



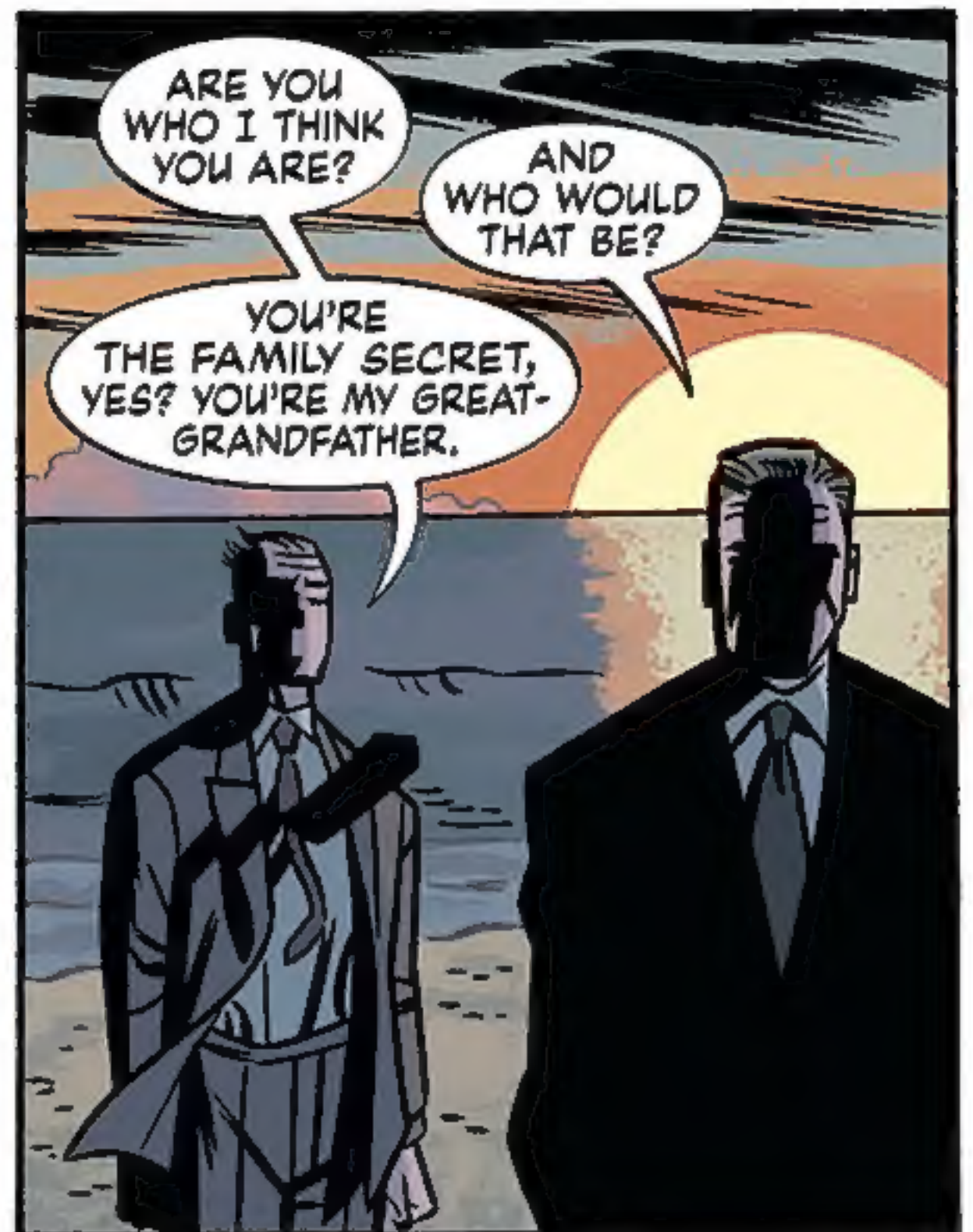
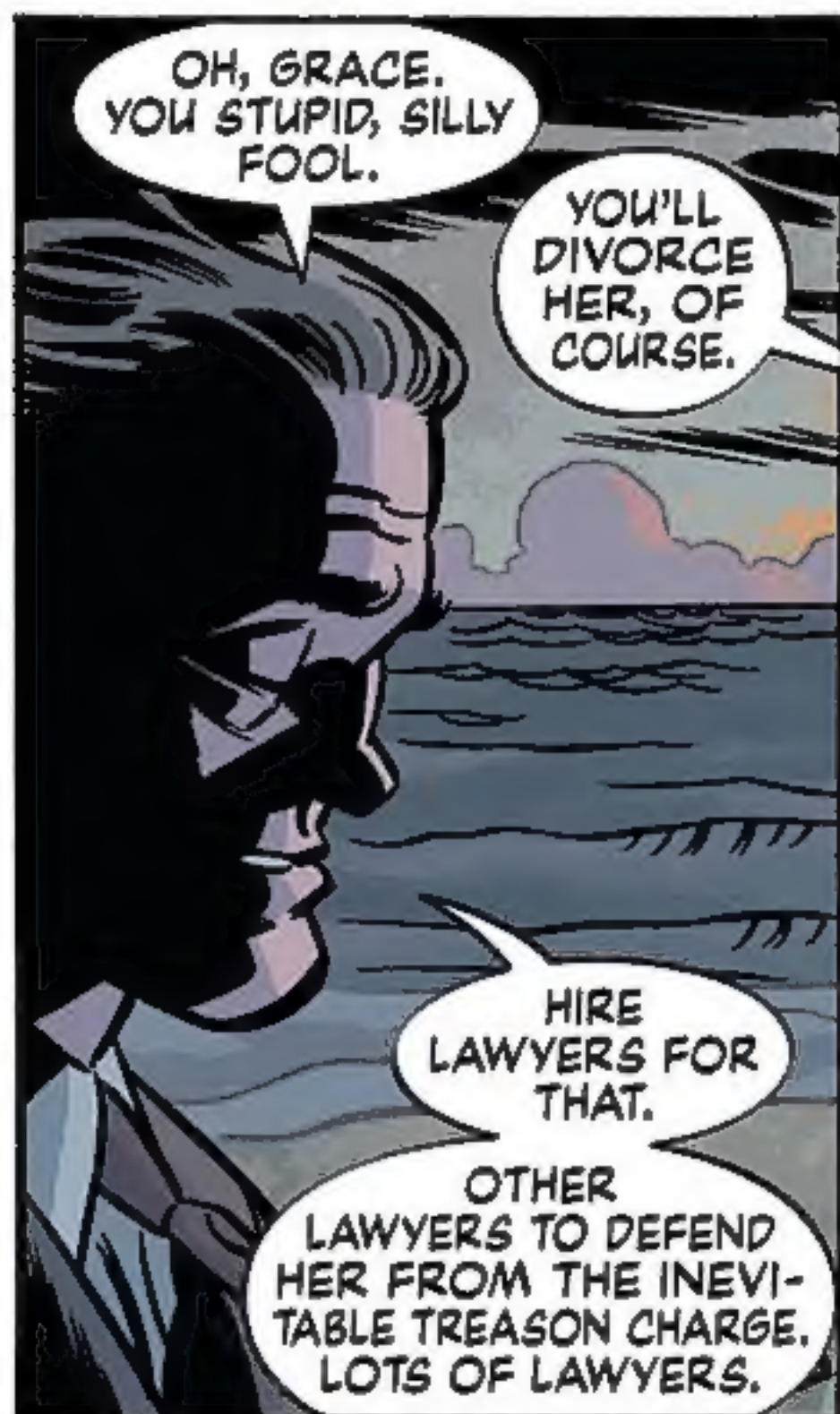
AND NOW,  
DARNELL, I SUGGEST  
YOU LAND THIS TOY  
OF YOURS.

YOU  
AND I SHOULD  
TALK.

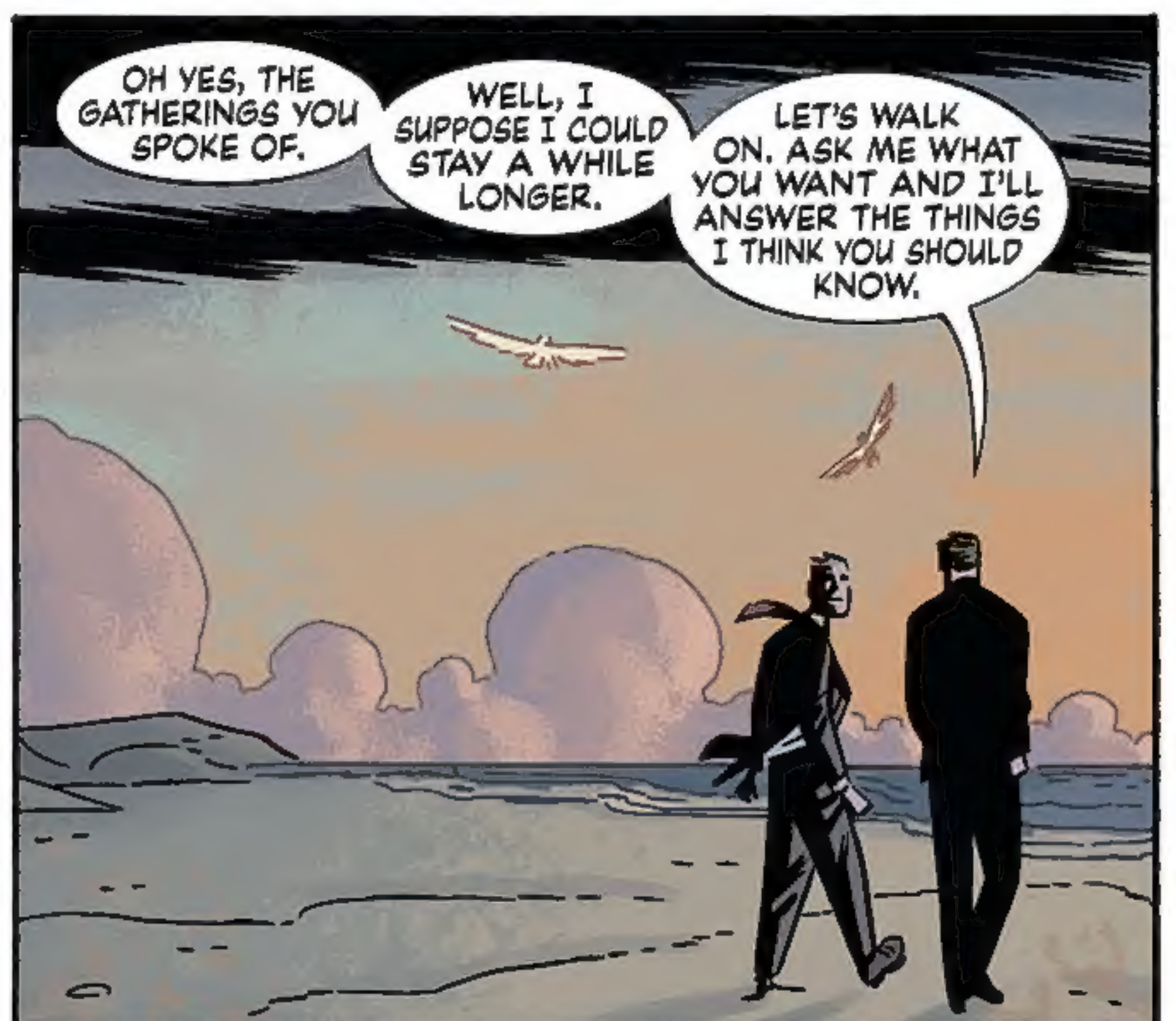
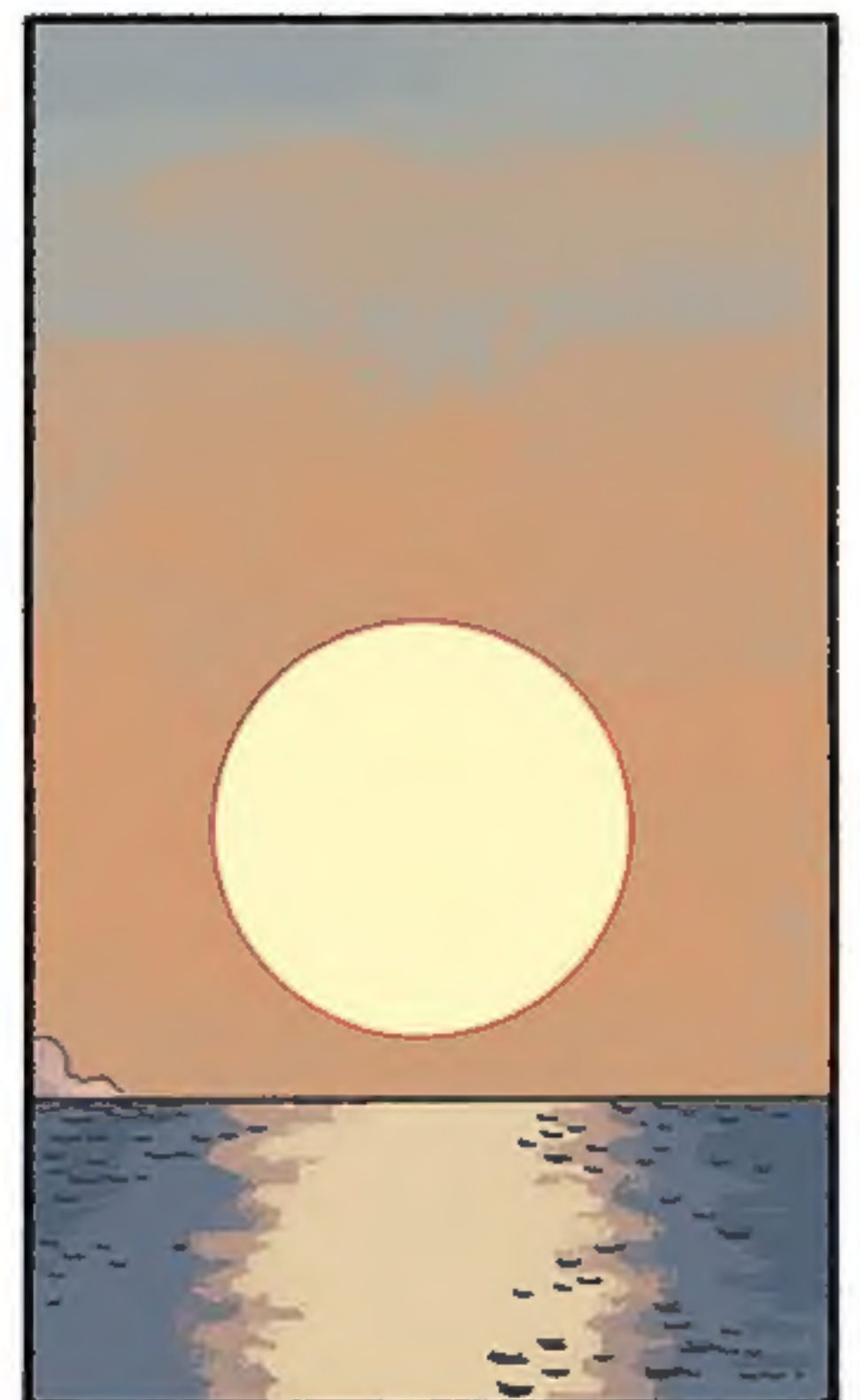
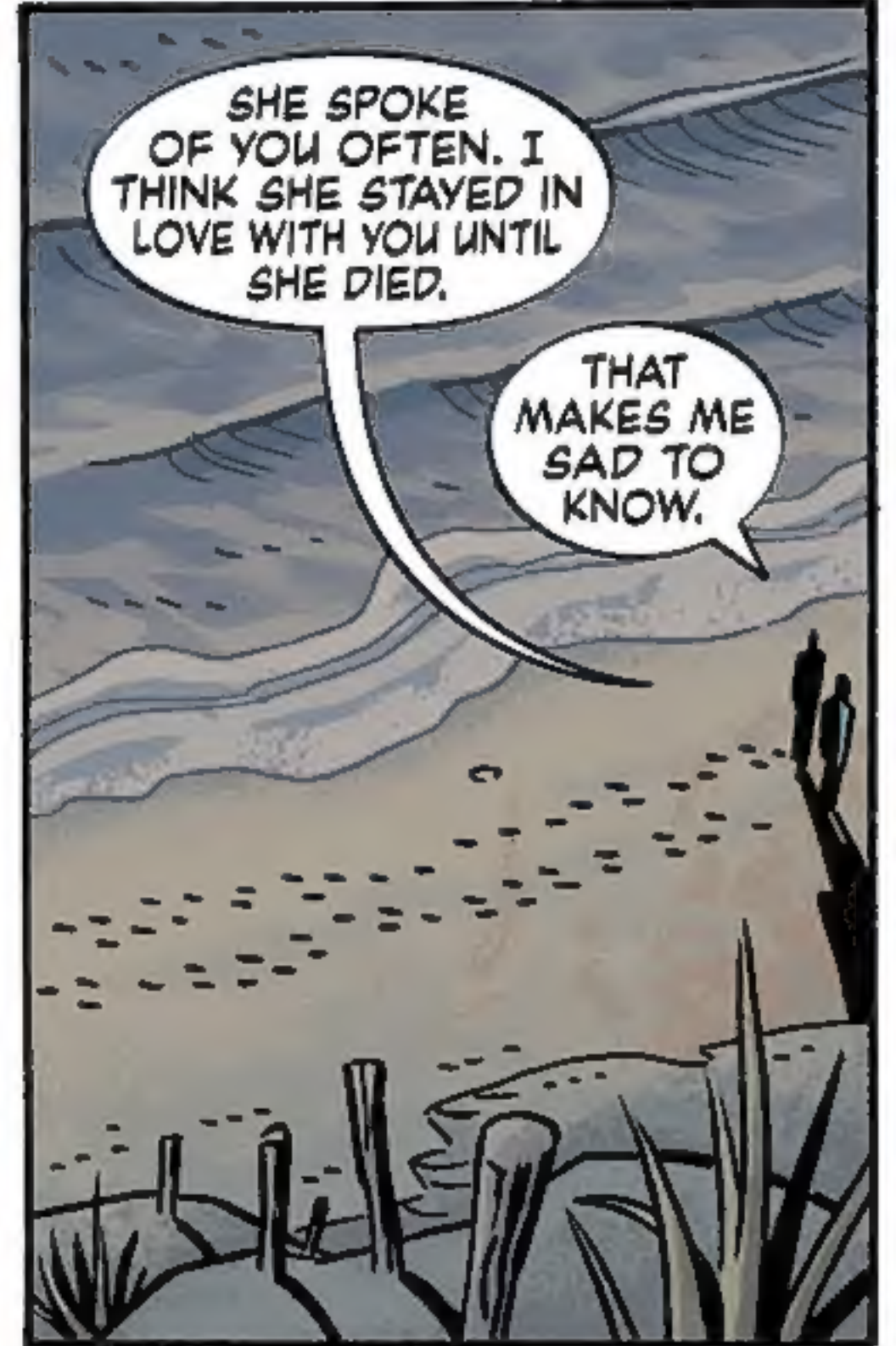


*Later. Dawn and a beach  
that offers us seclusion...*

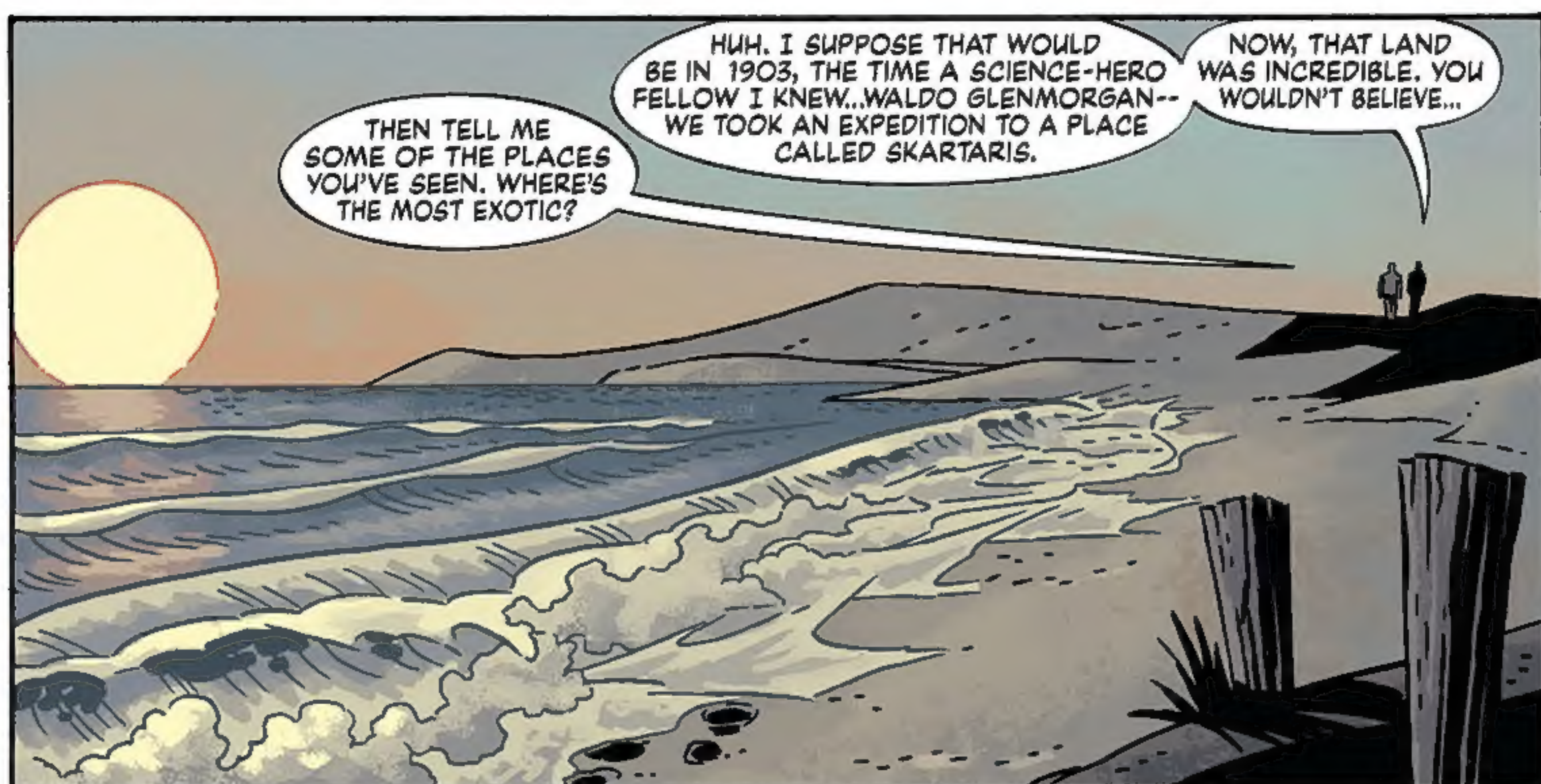
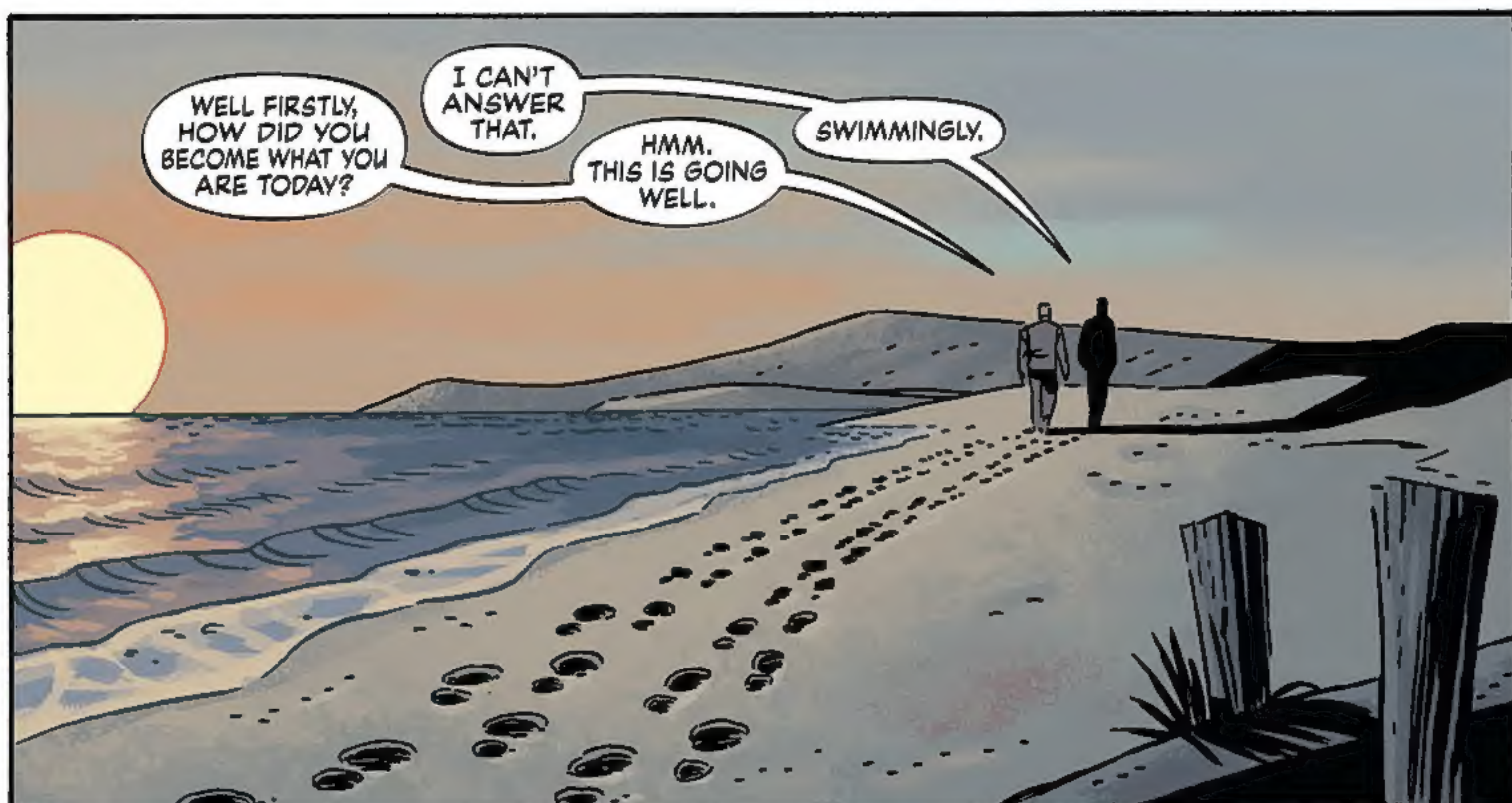
*...as I reveal...*













FROM THE WRITER OF SUPERMAN &  
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

**JAMES  
ROBINSON**

with **TONY HARRIS**

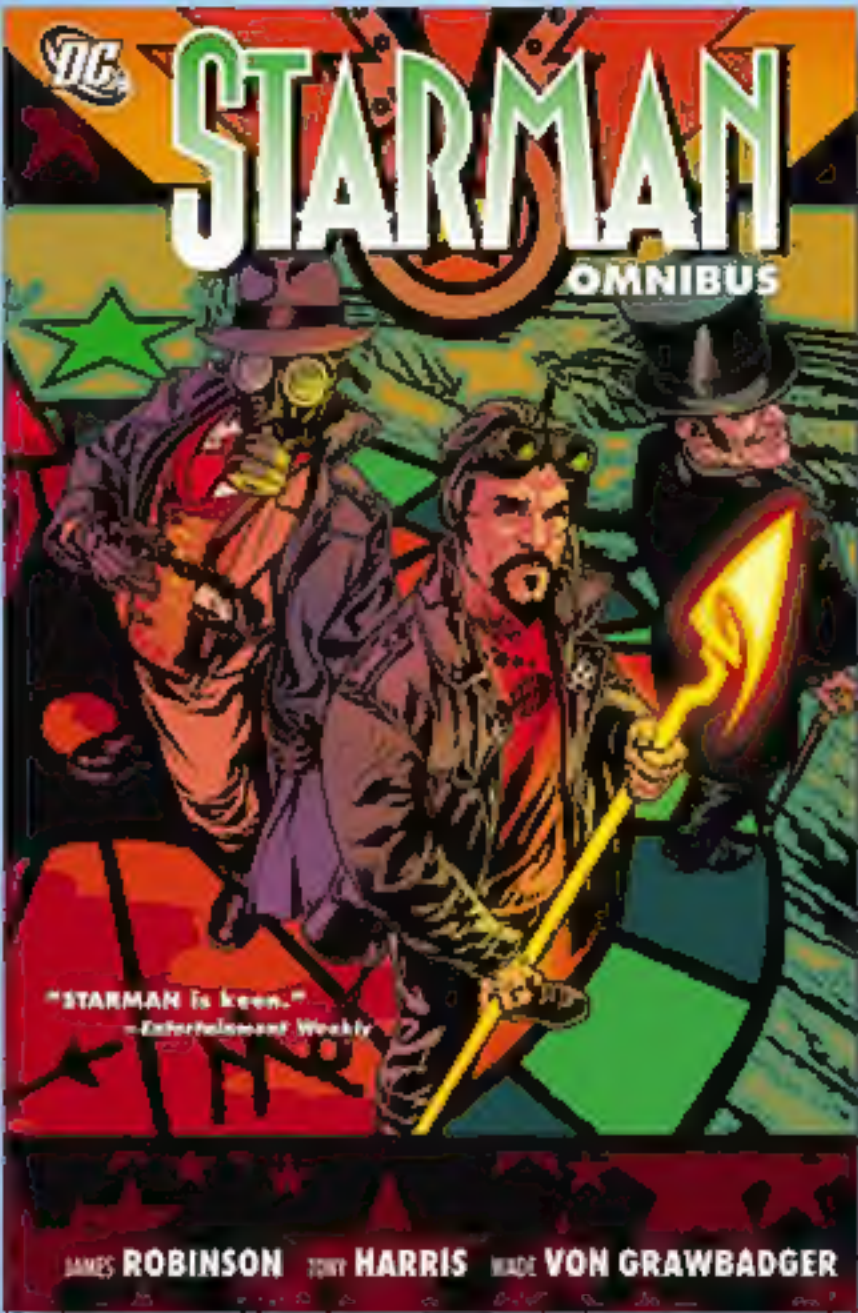
*"The best-written superhero in comics."*  
- ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

*"What'll make THE STARMAN OMNIBUS  
resonate with newcomers...is how well  
[James] Robinson and [Tony] Harris  
articulated the character of Jack Knight,  
a slacker with idiosyncratic tastes and ideals that  
didn't originate in any corporate boardroom."*  
-THE ONION

- STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 1
- STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 2
- STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 3
- STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 4
- STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 5



STARMAN OMNIBUS  
VOL. 2



with  
**TONY HARRIS**

STARMAN OMNIBUS  
VOL. 3



with  
**TONY HARRIS**  
& others

STARMAN OMNIBUS  
VOL. 4



with  
**TONY HARRIS**  
& others

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